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## BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE NEXT MEETING will be held at ABERDEEN, commencing on WEDNESDAY, September 14, 1859, under the Presidency of His Royal Highness the PRINCE CONSORT. The Reception Room will be the Mechanics' Hall, Market-street. Notices of Communications intended to be read to the Association, accompanied by a statement whether or not the Author will be present at the Meeting, may be addressed to John Phillips, M.A. LL.D. F.R.S., Assistant General Secretary, University Museum, Oxford; or to Prof. Nicol, Prof. Fuller, and John E. White, Esq., Local Secretaries, Aberdeen. JOHN TAYLOR, F.R.S., General Treasurer. 4, Queen-street-place, Upper Thames-street, London.

## BRITISH ASSOCIATION—MEETING IN ABERDEEN IN SEPTEMBER.

Under the Presidency of H.R.H. THE PRINCE CONSORT. The Committee of the British Association have resolved to have

## EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

during the Meeting of the Association in Aberdeen, and, with the object of securing a complete illustration of the present position of Photography, they invite contributions from all who are interested in this branch of Science. It is requested that contributors will forward their specimens and address to "The Photographic Exhibition, Music Hall Buildings, Aberdeen," not later than the 1st of September. At the close of the Exhibition, they will be carefully repaid, and, to the owners. It is also requested that intending contributors will intimate as early as possible to the Honorary Secretary, 107, King-street, Aberdeen, the extent of their contributions, in order that the necessary arrangements may be made.

A circular, containing further particulars, will be forwarded on application. JOHN F. WHITE, Local Secretary. 107, King-street, Aberdeen, 29th July, 1859.

## GUYS HOSPITAL.—The Medical Session commences in OCTOBER. The Introductory Address will be given by Dr. HARRISON, on SATURDAY, the 1st of October, at two o'clock.

## MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Physicians—Thomas Addison, M.D., G. H. Barlow, M.D., Owen Rees, M.D., F.R.C.S., W. W. Gull, M.D., M.D. Assistant Physicians—S. O. Habershon, M.D., S. Wilks, M.D., F. W. Pavy, M.D. Surgeons—Edward Cock, Esq., John Hilton, Esq. F.R.S., John Birkett, Esq. Assistant Surgeons—Alfred Poland, Esq., Cooper Forster, Esq., T. Bryant, Esq. Obstetric Physician—Henry Oldham, M.D. Assistant Obstetric Physician—Braxton Hicks, M.D. Surgeon Dentist—T. Bell, Esq. F.R.S., J. Salter, Esq. Surgeon of the Eye Infirmary—John E. France, Esq.

## LECTURES.—WINTER SESSION.

Medicine—Owen Rees, M.D. F.R.S., W. W. Gull, M.D. Surgery—John Hilton, Esq. F.R.S., John Birkett, Esq. Anatomy—Alfred Poland, Esq. Experimental Philosophy—Mr. Durham. Physiology—F. W. Pavy, M.D. Chemistry—Alfred Taylor, M.D. F.R.S. Demonstrations on Anatomy—Mr. Durham, and Mr. Moxon. Gentlemen desirous of becoming Students must give satisfactory testimony as to their education and conduct. They are required to pay 4s. for the first year, 4s. for the second year, and 10s. for every succeeding year of attendance, or 100s. in one payment enables a Student to a Perpetual Ticket. Dressers, Clinical Clerks, Ward Clerks, Obstetric Residents, and Dressers in the Eye Wards, are selected according to merit from those Students who have attended a second year. A Resident House Surgeon is appointed for six months from those Students who have obtained the College Diploma. Six Scholarships, varying in value from 25s. to 40s. each, will be awarded at the close of each Summer Session, for general progress. Two Gold Medals will be given by the Treasurer—One for Medicine and One for Surgery. A voluntary Examination will take place at Entrance, in Elementary Classics, and Mathematics. The three first Candidates will receive respectively, 25s., 10s., 10s. Mr. Stocker, Apothecary to Guy's Hospital, will enter Students, and give any further information required. Guy's Hospital, July, 1859.

## CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL, BROMPTON.

—Further HELP is sought to MAINTAIN this Hospital, which is NOW FULL, in entire efficiency. Bankers: Messrs. Williams, Deacon & Co., 20, Birchin-lane. PHILIP ROSE, Hon. Sec. HENRY DOBBS, Sec.

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## THE GOVERNMENTS' INSTITUTION, 34, SOHO-SQUARE.—MRS. WAGHORN, who has resided many years abroad, respectfully invites the attention of the Nobility, Gentry, and Principals of Schools, to her REGISTER of English and Foreign GOVERNMENTS, TEACHERS, COMMISSIONERS, TUTORS, and PROFESSORS. School Property transferred, and Pupils introduced in England, France, and Germany. No charge to Principals.

## CRYSTAL PALACE.—ARRANGEMENTS FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, August 6th:—

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## PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY.—Dr. MATTHEI-

SEN'S LABORATORY will RE-OPEN for the Winter Course on the 3rd of OCTOBER. Hours of Attendance, daily, from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., and in the Evening, from 6 to 9 P.M. Dr. Matthiessen may be consulted on Chemical Subjects, and Samples for analysis can be forwarded either to the Laboratory or to care of Messrs. H. MATTHEI & CO., Mark-lane Chambers, E.C. Laboratory, 1, Torrington-street, Russell-square, W.C.

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| Critic.                  | Revue des Deux Mondes.        |
| Spectator.               | Blackwood's Magazine.         |
| Economist.               | Fraser's Magazine.            |
| Dispatch.                | All the Year Round.           |
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LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1859.

## LITERATURE

*Dictionary of Americanisms. A Glossary of Words and Phrases usually regarded as peculiar to the United States.* By John Russell Bartlett. (Boston, U.S., Little & Co.; London, Trübner & Co.)

It was very well said by Bacon, that the man who travelled to a foreign country without knowing its language, went to school, and not to travel. At first sight, it would seem that a traveller has nothing to learn in this respect, if his purpose be to journey through the American States. This, however, would be a mistake. There are forms of expression in the States as perplexing to the uninitiated as a language altogether unknown; and a wayfarer to the frontier territories, especially, has not a little to learn—unless he be content to pass as a dunce.

Just fourteen centuries and an odd ten years have elapsed since Hengist and his Saxons laid the foundations of our present language in Britain, and began to drive Celts and Celtic to the extremities of the land, where the echoes of the ancient speech are not yet altogether extinguished. With the Danish invaders and settlers came new phrases, unusual enough to the popular ear; and, finally, that ear became refined, and the "polite," if not the popular tongue, was made to move in new fashion, by that accomplished French master, who gave his first lesson, in Norman French, to a numerous and not very docile class, in the field near Hastings.

From a language thus built up, Anglo-America procured her own; but as it was from our eastern counties and the Scottish Border that New England was colonized, it is in the districts of the latter that the peculiar idioms of the localities named are chiefly to be found.

There are other influences at work in America, which will result in the establishment of dialects as marked as any now disappearing in England. The Dutchelement in the State of New York cannot be trampled out. There are localities in England which once formed the garden ground of princely or noble proprietors. In these annually spring up a world of floral beauty, the seeds of which no living man has scattered: they have lain hidden for centuries beneath the soil, or they are self-sown by the crops which fight their own way to the surface, and gaily greet the sun. The pertinacity is remarkable; and as it is here with flowers, so is it in the closely-packed State of New York with Dutch words. They *won't* go out; they pierce through the politest phrases; they ring in whole sentences in saloons familiar with crinoline and grand pianos; and they form the family staple of communication in some soils, where the English flower of speech will not blossom at all, or blossoms but to fade away quickly.

This district must be a region of painful limbo to newly-arrived English cooks, maid-servants, and, indeed, to what is usually called their "betters." What are these to know of *olybooks* and *crullers*, or the nursery people of *scups* and *pinksters*? How would the English master or mistress in such a place be puzzled by the mention of *barracades* and *clockmunches*? They would be unpleasantly ignorant whether these terms implied something that they would be expected to eat or only to wear.

In less marked, but yet in certain measure, the great German settlements are influencing the forms of speech in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, as the Norwegian communities in Illinois are grafting modes of expression among

the Anglo-American brotherhoods by which they are surrounded; and the old British will assuredly leave its impression where the exclusive Welsh associations pitch their tabernacles, as the French colonists in Louisiana, and the Spanish in Florida, have more deeply and permanently left traces of their abiding in the dialect of the territory which they were the first to occupy after the Indian. And that Indian himself,—in the names of rivers, mountains and cities, of beasts and fishes and plants, and of articles new to, and adopted by the European and American,—has left a testimony, slow to die away, of his rude sovereignty and his musical tongue.

Of these various materials does the modern Anglo-American language exist. It is English, "with a difference"; a grand mass in itself, but marred by vulgarisms which the ignorant supplied, and which senators, editors, and stump-orators have seized upon. These spoilers of fair speech may point to high authority for their iniquity,—to the clergy! "It is a fact which cannot be denied," says Mr. Bartlett, "that many strange and barbarous words, to which our ears are gradually becoming familiar, owe to them their origin and introduction; among them may be mentioned such words as *fellowship*, to *difficult*, to *eventuate*, to *dololize*, to *happify*, to *donate*, to *funeralize*, &c." This destructive American class has honorary members in this country. Only the other day we heard of a preacher who, speaking of the scene with the doctors in the Temple, remarked that the Divine disputant completely "*shut them up*!" On the other hand, in the States:—

"Among some of the Western people there are strange ideas regarding the use of certain words, which has led the mock-modest to reject them and substitute others. Thus, to speak of the names of animals only, the essentially English word *bull* is refined beyond the mountains, and perhaps elsewhere, into *cow-creature*, *male-cow*, and even *gentleman-cow*! A friend who resided many years in the West has told me of an incident where a gray-headed man of sixty doffed his hat reverently and apologized to a clergyman for having used inadvertently in his hearing the plain Saxon term. *Male sheep*, *male hog*, etc., are of a piece with the preceding, to which we may add *rooster*, *he biddy*, *game chicken*, etc."

It was in this district, doubtless, that the gallant American captain drowned himself when bathing, because his head above water had been seen by a lady; and there can be no manner of doubt that it was in the same locality that ladies decently put the legs of their pianos into pretty, frilled trousers! But there are exaggerations of another sort connected with speech and manners beyond the Atlantic:—

"This sort of exaggeration frequently assumes the form of what in England is very appropriately termed 'fine writing,' but which with us is better known as 'highfaluten.' Thus a Western critic, speaking of the acting of a Miss Logan, says the way in which she chanted the *Marseillaise* was 'terrible in its intensity,' and that the impression made 'must create for her a name that will never die.' This, however, 'does not begin' with Miss Wyatt, whose performances at Springfield, Illinois, are thus described in a criticism in one of the papers of that city:—'Illumined by the lyric muse, she is magnificent. All nerve, all palpitation, her rounded form is the fittest setting for her diamond soul! She has grace which is more than beauty, and distinction which adorns still more than grace. She appears the incarnation of genius!—it struggles within her!—inspiration quivers down her snow-white arms, and trembles on her fingers' ends,—passion wrestles in her quivering frame, and shudders through her limbs. Her soul flickers in every accent, and looms up in every pantomime, while serene smiles play about her mouth. Her drapery follows her gestures,—her gestures her passions.

Every attitude is a model, every pose is a classic statue.' 'The very opposite,' says Dr. Lieber, 'is the case at present in England. There has been no period and no country in which perspicuity, simplicity, and manliness of style are so general as at present in English Reviews; even newspapers, e.g. the London Spectator, are models of these attributes of a good style. Monckton Milnes, M.P., told me he had not the least doubt but that the House of Commons of the present day would not stand the eloquence of Fox, Sheridan, or Burke. I asked, 'What would they do?' 'The members would instantly leave their seats,' was the reply. Mr. Milnes also spoke of several American writers whose style was correct; still, he could always detect some florid expression characteristic of their people.'

Some of the people, themselves, have treated very good words in a very rough manner. The term *aborigines*, for instance, is corrupted by the illiterate denizens of the West into *Abergains* and *Abrogans*! In other parts of the Union a freedom is taken with English generally, and grammar particularly, which would have disturbed the equanimity of Lindley Murray. There is, for example, a common expression among the illiterate to mean "all gone." Thus, a servant will say, "The potatoes is all any more!" that is, "are all gone"; or she will say simply, "They's all!" On the other hand, there are words appropriated which are exceedingly significant. In England we know what railway "buffers" mean. In America they are called "bumpers," as suggestive of the rough way in which they strike against each other. Some phrases are so peculiar as to require both explanation and illustration, as in the case of "Acknowledge the Corn," which, we are told, is—

"an expression of recent origin, which has now become very common. It means to confess or acknowledge a charge or imputation. The following story is told as the origin of the phrase:—'Some years ago, a raw customer, from the upper country, determined to try his fortune at New Orleans. Accordingly he provided himself with two flat-boats,—one laden with corn and the other with potatoes,—and down the river he went. The night after his arrival he went up town, to a gambling-house. Of course he commenced betting, and his luck proving unfortunate, he lost. When his money was gone, he bet his 'truck' and the corn and potatoes followed the money. At last, when completely cleaned out, he returned to his boats at the wharf; when the evidences of a new misfortune presented themselves. Through some accident or other, the flat-boat containing the corn was sunk, and a total loss. Consoling himself as well as he could, he went to sleep, dreaming of gamblers, potatoes, and corn. It was scarcely sunrise, however, when he was disturbed by the 'child of chance,' who had arrived to take possession of the two boats as his winnings. Slowly awakening from his sleep, our hero, rubbing his eyes and looking the man in the face, replied: 'Stranger, I acknowledge the corn—take 'em; but the potatoes you can't have, by thunder!'—*Pittsburgh Com. Advertiser*. The Evening Mirror very naively comes out and acknowledges the corn, admits that a demand was made, etc.—*New York Herald*, June 27, 1846."

Again, when we hear Jonathan remarking, that "Anti-slavery professions just before an election ain't worth a Bungtown copper," we learn from Mr. Bartlett that the article so named is a clumsy counterfeit of the English halfpenny (long a legal coin), "manufactured at Bungtown, now Barneyville, in the town of Rehoboth, Mass." Thus, our coin is counterfeited, but not more basely than our phrases. Our good old word "chare" is not only misused, but is made exclusively a noun, mis-spelt, and put to various uses. In England, we have women only who "chare." In America, they have editors who follow the same profession; and we

find the editor of the *Boston Daily Star*, on relinquishing his post, inserting the following notice in his journal:—"Any one wishing corn hoed, gardens weeded, wood sawed, coals pitched-in, paragraphs written, or small chores done with despatch, and on reasonable terms, will please make immediate application to the retiring editor." We have something less humorous, but more instructive, in the following:—

"DOLLAR MARK (\$). The origin of this sign to represent the dollar has been the cause of much discussion. One writer says it comes from the letters U. S. (United States), which after the adoption of the Federal currency, and which afterwards, in the hurry of writing, were run into one another; the U being made first and the S over it. Another, that it is derived from the contraction of the Spanish word *peso*, dollars, or *pesos fuertes*, hard dollars. A third that it is a contraction for the Spanish *fuertes*, hard, to distinguish silver or hard dollars from paper-money. The more probable explanation is, that it is a modification of the figures \$, formerly used to denote a piece of eight reals, or, as a dollar was then called, a *piece of eight*."

In connexion with this, we subjoin a paragraph which will be of interest to handsome young curates and celibate popular preachers, whose rooms are furnished, tables laden, and their proper persons adorned by the ladies of their congregations. How would those gentlemen like a "Donation party," as it is illustrated in the latter part of the following extract?—

"DONATION PARTY. A party consisting of the friends and parishioners of a country clergyman assembled together, each individual bringing some article of food or clothing as a present to him. Where the salary of a clergyman is small, the contributions at a *donation party* are very acceptable. It is also called a *giving party*. In the 'Bedott Papers' is an amusing description of a *donation party* given to a country minister who had a salary of but \$400 a year. On this occasion the visitors were very numerous, and the articles presented so very few that the minister's family were compelled to contribute the larger portion of the refreshments. The poor clergyman sent in his resignation immediately after, and, on being asked by a deacon for the reason of his sudden withdrawal, answered:—'I've been your pastor two years, and you've had the kindness to give me two *donation parties*. I've stood it so far, but I can't stand it any longer; brethren, I feel convinced that one more *donation party* would completely break me down.'

These donation parties would not be popular among our clerical friends at home. The use of this last word draws us away from the consideration of the supply of food and clothing to ill-paid American ministers, to a pleasing passage on that pleasant English word "home":

"HOME. 1. England, Great Britain; a term in common use among the natives of Great Britain, as well as those of English descent resident in the United States and Canada. Some say 'the Old Country.' This term is of ancient use, and Mr. Irving, in his *Life of Washington*, says he remembers when the endearing phrase still lingered on Anglo-Saxon lips even after the Revolution; and that its use by Washington himself, 'evinces the chord which still vibrated in the American bosom.' In a letter to George Mason (1769), speaking of the difficulty arising from the clashing interests of merchants, Washington says: 'In the tobacco colonies where the trade is so diffused, and in a manner wholly conducted by factors for their principals at home, these difficulties are enhanced.' Again, in a letter to his brother Augustine, written in April, 1755, he says: 'My command was reduced, under a pretence of an order from home.' 2. Home is frequently used for at home, in one's own dwelling; as, 'I breakfasted home.' 'How's all home?'"

There is one word in America of a home quality, which is altogether new to us,—namely,

"Infair," which is described as the "reception" party, or entertainment of a newly-married couple, in the west and south; and appears to have some resemblance to a "house-warming." Let us observe that, in the south, when a young lady fails to keep her promise to a swain, and the expected married home is never established, she is said to have "kicked" him. In other parts he is described as having *got the mitten*, which is similar in meaning to the German phrase, when a jilted lover "gets the basket." *Appropos* to homes and lovers, romance and drinking, here is a story about Lager-Beer:—

"LAGER-BEER. (Germ. *Lager-Bier*; i. e. Stock-beer.) Sometimes contracted into *lager*. A kind of small beer introduced a few years ago into the American cities by the Germans, and now much in vogue among all classes. The following story is told of its origin: 'Many years ago a shoemaker, near Bamberg, sent his apprentice to get a bottle of Bamberg beer, which was sold at that place; but the boy, not knowing this, went to the city itself. On returning, he met an acquaintance of his, who told him that when he would come home, his "boss" would whip him for staying so long. The poor boy, who was frightened at this, thought it better not to go home at all, but took his bottle, buried it under a tree, and ran away. He went among the soldiers, where he distinguished himself, so that, in short, he became an officer. When one day his regiment was quartered in this small town, the officer thought proper to pay a visit to his old boss, but not before he had got the bottle of beer, which he had buried some years before under the tree. When he entered, he said: "Well, Sir, here I bring you your bottle of Bamberg beer that you sent me for." The shoemaker, not knowing what this meant, was told by the officer all about it. The bottle was then opened, and the beer was found to be of superior quality. When this fact was known, some of the brewers built deep vaults, where they put their beer, and called it, after it had lain there some time, *lager*, which means nothing more than lying [not so; it means the beams in the cellar on which the casks are laid]. The officer afterwards married the daughter of the shoemaker, and drank a good deal of *lager-beer*, receiving in that occupation the assistance of his father-in-law.'

The above is an example how German words are adopted in the States. The volume contains, also, many instances of the retention of old English words no longer in use among ourselves. Such is the old Shakspearian word *mechin*, or *meching*, tantamount to "skulking." The Rev. Mr. Dow uses it even in the American pulpit. "O, brethren!" says that eccentric preacher, "I warn you not to make too sure of success, for you may be disappointed. When you fall short of the object for which you jump, you go *mechin* off, like a cat that has missed her mouse."

In some of the explanations here given, Mr. Bartlett more than once gets himself and his reader into confusion. Thus, "to see the elephant," is described by him as meaning the undergoing of any disappointment of high-raised expectations. "Here I am in town," says a drunken offender to the Recorder of New Orleans, "without a rock in my pocket, without a skirt to my coat or crown to my hat; but, Squire, I'll say no more, *I've seen the elephant*." All the illustrations show that disaster is implied in the term; and yet, when the author is explaining the word *mill*, he says that "he has been through the mill," is applied to one who has experience of the world; and that the phrase is equivalent to "he has seen the elephant."

In the world of fashion, in the "upper ten-dom," and its imitators of "lower twentydom," there are as curious things to be seen as "the elephant." Here is a glance at a lady:—

"SPIT-CURL. A detached lock of hair curled upon the temple; probably from having been at

first flattered into shape by the saliva. It is now understood that the mucilage of quince-seed is used by the ladies for this purpose.

You may prate of your lips, and your teeth of pearl,  
And your eyes so brightly flashing;  
My song shall be of that *saliva cur.*,  
Which threatens my heart to smash in.

*Boston Transcript*, Oct. 30, 1858.

The French have a prettier name for these things in the term "accroche-cœur." The old name for them here was "love-lock"; but they are "out of fashion," and have been so, as far as men are concerned, since the time when Hunt, one of the murderers of his fellow ruffian, Weare, appeared at the bar with a highly-pomatumed love-lock sticking tight to his forehead. Such an adornment is never seen here now, except on the brow of a pickpocket in the dock.

There is a less noxious, but, perhaps, more vulgar class of society than this last on both sides of the Atlantic, who slip out of downright blasphemy by clipping and defacing the brilliant expletives originally issued from the mint of blackguardism. One of the most singular illustrations of this sort over the water, is "I vum," for "I vow,"—an euphemistic form of oath often heard in New England." What Mr. Dow thinks of this we learn from the third volume of his sermons:—"What though," he exclaims, "instead of saying, 'I swear to God!' you say, 'I declare to goodness?' It is as much the same thing as a bobolink with a new coat of feathers. *I vum* is just the same in spirit as *I vow*, and 'a diabolical falsehood' is synonymous with a *devilish lie*."

The slang words used by "twentydom," and grades both above and below it, are, of course, frequent. To be "Wamble-cropped" is to be sick at stomach, and, figuratively, crestfallen. In the country parts of Rhode Island, "trade" implies *medicine*, and a *medical prescription*. The "spread-eagle style" signifies a style of extraordinary arrogance, as if the President were to state,—"A treaty has been concluded between the Queen of Great Britain and me!" Nearly all popular phrases derived from Indian life and manners have an evil signification. An "Indian gift" is one which you may expect will be reclaimed; "dough-face" is a northern abettor of negro-slavery; and "hunkers" are those who cling to the old homestead, or old principles. Of the word "hoosier," a nickname given in the west to the natives of Indiana, Mr. Bartlett says:—

"A Correspondent of the Providence Journal, writing from Indiana, gives the following account of the origin of this term:—'Throughout all the early Western settlements were men who rejoiced in their physical strength, and on numerous occasions, at log-rollings and house-raising, demonstrated this to their entire satisfaction. They were styled by their fellow-citizens *hushers*, from their primary capacity to still their opponents. It was a common term for a bully throughout the West. The boatmen of Indiana were formerly as rude and as primitive a set as could well belong to a civilized country, and they were often in the habit of displaying their pugilistic accomplishments upon the Levee at New Orleans. Upon a certain occasion there, one of these rustic professors of the "noble art" very adroitly and successfully practised the "fancy" upon several individuals at one time. Being himself not a native of this Western world, in the exuberance of his exultation he sprang up, exclaiming, in foreign accent, "I'm a *hoosier*, I'm a *hoosier*." Some of the New Orleans papers reported the case, and afterwards transferred the corruption of the epithet "*husher*" (*hoosier*) to all the boatmen from Indiana, and from thence to all her citizens. The Kentuckians, on the contrary, maintained that the nickname expresses the gruff exclamation of their neighbours, when one knocks at a door, &c., "Who's yere?"

This is now an old term. Of the newest

added following:  
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added to the popular phrase-book, we have the following:—

"HURRY UP THE CAKES, *i.e.*, Be quick; look alive. This phrase, which has lately got into vogue, originated in the common New York eating-houses, where it is the custom for the waiters to bawl out the name of each dish as fast as ordered, that the person who serves up may get it ready without delay, and where the order, 'Hurry up them cakes,' &c., is frequently heard. 'If you have any communications to make, hurry them up, hot and hasty, like buck-wheat cakes at a cheap eating-house.'—*Dow's Sermons*, p. 51."

The above is thoroughly home-made, but the one given below was laid in Europe, and yet raised in America:—

"SOME PUMPKINS. A term in use, at the South and West, in opposition to the equally elegant phrase 'small potatoes.' The former is applied to anything large or noble; the latter to anything small or mean. A writer in the 'Pennsylvanian,' under date of Nov. 15, 1849, thus explains its origin:—'I am not aware of the saying being incorporated into any play extant, although it can claim an existence of nearly sixty years. It originated with James Fennell, the celebrated tragedian, who came to this country in the year '92. As the circumstance which gave rise to it is somewhat singular, I take the extract from his life, published in the year 1814, which gave birth to an expression that has now become a part and portion of our polite, and I may say *new*, style of conversation. When quite a lad, Fennell, in company with Dr. Mosely, and the celebrated philosopher Mr. Walker, and son, made the tour of France. Speaking of this portion of the journey, the author says:—'I recollect nothing of consequence that took place, till we arrived at the celebrated city of Rouen. Physic and philosophy had, from their situation in front, a wide share of vision; but young Walker and myself could only look down. Wishing, however, to see all we could, we kept peeping through our little windows. As we were passing, without our [the young ones] knowing it, the famous Cathedral of Rouen, young Walker, peeping through his little square, exclaimed, 'Look, Fennell, what immense pumpkins.' His father, who had been attentively gazing at the building, turned round, exclaiming, 'God! can you be looking at pumpkins, while you are passing such a cathedral as this?' Young Walker observed, that he did not know what he was passing, for he could see nothing above the ground.' Young Fennell could not resist the temptation of plaguing Walker about the pumpkins; so whenever they approached a stately building or towering spire, he would invariably exclaim, 'Look, Walker, there are some pumpkins.' It is almost needless to say it became a favourite, if not a common saying, as it is to this day.' This story is sufficiently circumstantial, and the origin it assigns may be the true one; yet the stress which is always laid on the 'some' in this phrase shows that it has the purely adjectival sense which we have ascribed to the word under number two, whereas the anecdote gives it its usual pronominal meaning.—'Although the Mexican women are not distinguished for beauty, I never remember once to have seen an ugly woman. Their brilliant eyes make up for any deficiency of feature, and their figures are full and voluptuous. Now and then, moreover, one does meet with a perfectly beautiful creature; and when a Mexican woman does combine such perfection, she is "*some pumpkins*," as the Missourians say when they wish to express something superlative in the female line.'—*Ruxton's Adventures in Mexico*, p. 57."

Of the real history of the terms *Bunkum* and *Uncle Sam*, this volume says much, and tells nothing. Of the "Stars and Stripes" we have a page of some interest:—

"This flag was adopted by act of Congress on the 14th of June 1777, in the following words: 'Resolved,—that the flag of the thirteen United Colonies be thirteen stripes, alternately red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.' It has been thought that the arms of Washington may have suggested the idea for the American flag.

These arms contain three stars in the upper portion, and three bars running across the escutcheon."

\* \* In March 1775 a union flag with a red field was hoisted at New York, bearing the inscription, 'George Rex and the Liberties of America,' and upon the reverse 'No Popery.' On the 18th July 1778 Gen. Putnam raised, at Prospect Hill, a flag bearing on one side the Massachusetts motto 'Qui transtulit sustinet,' on the other 'An appeal to Heaven.' In October of the same year the floating batteries at Boston had a flag with the latter motto, the field white with a pine-tree upon it. This was the Massachusetts emblem. Another flag, used during 1775 in some of the colonies, had upon it a rattlesnake coiled, as if about to strike, with the motto, 'Don't tread on me.' The grand union flag of thirteen stripes was raised on the heights near Boston, January 2, 1776. The 'British Annual Register' of 1776 says: 'They burnt the King's speech and changed their colours from a red ground, which they had hitherto used, to a flag of thirteen stripes, as a symbol of the number and union of the colonies.' The idea of making a stripe for each state was adopted from the first: and the fact goes far to negative the supposition that the private arms of General Washington had anything to do with it. The pine-tree, the rattlesnake, and the striped flag, were used indiscriminately until June 1777, when the blue union with the stars was added to the stripes, and the flag established by law. Formerly a new stripe was added for each new State admitted to the Union, until the flag became too large, when, by act of Congress, the stripes were reduced to the old thirteen; and now a star is added to the union at the accession of each new state."

As of the banner, so must we add a word of the music which hails its appearance:—

"YANKEE DOODLE. There has been much discussion as to the origin of the term *Yankee Doodle*, and of the well-known tune which bears this name, without coming as yet to any very satisfactory conclusion. In England the air has been traced back to the time of Charles the First; and it appears that the doggerel verses that are sung to it can claim nearly as respectable an antiquity. This, however, is not all. The song is said to be identical with one sung by the agricultural labourers in the Netherlands. Kossuth and his fellow Hungarians, when in this country, are said to have recognized it as one of the old national airs of their native land. And recently Mr. Buckingham Smith, our then secretary of Legation at Madrid, has asserted that it is the ancient sword-dance of the Biscayans."

The name of this air does not appear in either of Mr. Chappell's indexes to his volumes on old English music, and we therefore are unable to test what is said of the English birth of "Yankee Doodle," by appealing to a great authority.

Of the English language itself, in America, the author—not without reason—speaks despondingly. What with the preference given to the Latin over the Saxon element, the great admixture of words by various foreign settlers, and the adoption of slang words by clergy, senators, and dictionary-makers, Mr. Bartlett thinks it unlikely that the pure, old idiomatic English style can ever be restored in America. "But there is no good reason to doubt," he adds, "that the fusion of the present rather heterogeneous elements of which our society is composed, will result in the production of a style and a literature, which will also have their beauties and merits, although fashioned after a somewhat different model." Meanwhile we may repeat what we have recently asserted, that our pure English has, for some time been in great peril, and indeed suffering much damage, here "at home." It is not only that skilful writers rather use Latin than Saxon words; but there are young and idle folk among us who, although they have been to school, and ought to be learned and to know better, gladden their foolish hearts and sadden those of their elders, by cutting out new shapes

of speech, and, by often using them, gaining for them a home on our lips, if not in our word-books. Against these we must keep watch, or they will make our mother-tongue itself unlovely.

Mr. Bartlett's volume may be said to register the offences of the assaunders of language in America, and we are so far influenced by the perusal of his book, that we close it with commendatory mention of the author's name, and a proposal to do him the honour of—"three cheers and a tiger!"

#### Shelley Memorials: from Authentic Sources.

Edited by Lady Shelley. To which is added an Essay on Christianity, by Percy Bysshe Shelley: now first printed. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

THERE seems to be a decree that we shall have no good life of Shelley. Misconstruction, litigation, genius, eccentricity—the arrival of a great poet among small people, and at a strange time—a thwarted career—an existence prematurely ended—contribute to place a true, tolerant, yet sympathizing story of such a man's dreams, failures, efforts, triumphs, misfortunes, among the things not to be hoped for. The notices thrown off by his own widow, whose future hope and enjoyment were shattered as by a thunderbolt, in the storm which closed his life,—disclose affection—agonized sense of desolation—in no common degree; but, withal such an inadvertence in regard to licences,—which the world of poets, high, true and pure, has never recognized,—as to leave little regret that Mrs. Shelley's life of her husband was not finished. There can be no doubt of her genius, of her attachment, of her sincerity—but of her judgment. As little are we satisfied with regard to the present editor, judging her on her own showing:—

"Had it been left entirely to the uninfluenced wishes of Sir Percy Shelley and myself, we should have preferred that the publication of the materials for a life of Shelley which we possess should have been postponed to a later period of our lives; but, as we had recently noticed, both in French and English magazines, many papers on Shelley, all taking for their text Captain Medwin's Life of the Poet (a book full of errors), and as other biographies had been issued, written by those who had no means of ascertaining the truth, we were anxious that the numerous misstatements which had gone forth should be corrected. For this purpose, we placed the documents in our possession at the disposal of a gentleman whose literary habits and early knowledge of the poet seemed to point him out as the most fitting person for bringing them to the notice of the public. It was clearly understood, however, that our wishes and feelings should be consulted in all the details. We saw the book for the first time when it was given to the world. It was impossible to imagine beforehand that from such materials a book could have been produced which has astonished and shocked those who have the greatest right to form an opinion on the character of Shelley; and it was with the most painful feelings of dismay that we perused what we could only look upon as a fantastic caricature, going forth to the public with my apparent sanction,—for it was dedicated to myself. Our feelings of duty to the memory of Shelley left us no other alternative than to withdraw the materials which we had originally entrusted to his early friend, and which we could not but consider had been strangely misused; and to take upon ourselves the task of laying them before the public."

The amount of new matter contained in this volume is not very important.—The Poet's boyhood and college life, his expulsion from the University and his strange, comfortless first marriage, are all in turn glanced at, as they must be, apologetically.—His connexion and

marriage with the daughter of Godwin and Mary Wolstonecraft, the influences which this and foreign residence had on his authorship, and the tragical end of the whole story, are sketched in due course. While following this sketch we have more than ever been struck with the strangely feverish atmosphere breathed by the poet and his young wife. Never, apparently, did a couple exist more completely in a world of their own,—never more regulate every proceeding and expression in accordance to instincts and principles at variance with those of many wise and good persons; yet they seem to have lived in a state of imperfect content at the result of their philosophies, and of honest wonder that immediate success did not attend attempts at imaginative creation, which the most tolerant could only enjoy after having stretched toleration to its utmost.—It was not enough that a young and delicate woman should suggest such a hideous story as 'The Cenci,' as the subject of a play to be acted in an English theatre;—both seem to have been unfeignedly saddened and surprised that all entertainment of such a proposition was impossible,—to have regarded the aversion excited as so much malignant persecution. Here, for instance, is a curious paragraph on the subject,—which, nevertheless, to avoid misunderstanding, we cannot introduce without reminding the reader how little we approved either the taste or the temper of *Quarterly* criticism in its "savage and tartarly" days:—

"Southey wrote the article in question, I am well aware. Observe the impudence of the man in speaking of himself. The only remark worth notice in this piece is the assertion that I imitate Wordsworth. It may as well be said that Lord Byron imitates Wordsworth, or that Wordsworth imitates Lord Byron, both being great poets, and deriving from the new springs of thought and feeling, which the great events of our age have exposed to view, a similar tone of sentiment, imagery, and expression. A certain similarity all the best writers of any particular age inevitably are marked with, from the spirit of that age acting on all. This I had explained in my Preface, which the writer was too disingenuous to advert to. As to the other trash, and particularly the lame attack on my personal character, which was meant so ill, and which I am not the man to feel, 'tis all nothing. I am glad, with respect to that part of it which alludes to Hunt, that it should so have happened that I dedicate, as you will see, a work which has all the capacities for being popular to that excellent person. I was amused, too, with the finale; it is like the end of the first act of an opera, when that tremendous concordant discord sets up from the orchestra, and everybody talks and sings at once. It describes the result of my battle with their Omnipotent God; his pulling me under the sea by the hair of my head, like Pharaoh; my calling out like the devil who was *game* to the last; swearing and cursing in all comic and horrid oaths, like a French postilion on Mont Cenis; entreating everybody to drown themselves; pretending not to be drowned myself when I am drowned; and, lastly, *being* drowned."

As all that remains of our task is miscellaneous extract, we may as well here give, from a preceding page, a judgment of Shelley on a contemporary, in a letter addressed to Mr. Ollier:—

"I have read your 'Altham,' and Keats's poem and Lamb's works. For the second in this list, much praise is due to me for having read it, the author's intention appearing to be that no person should possibly get to the end of it. Yet it is full of some of the highest and the finest gleams of poetry; indeed, everything seems to be viewed by the mind of a poet which is described in it. I think, if he had printed about fifty pages of fragments from it, I should have been led to admire Keats as a poet more than I ought, of which there is now no danger."

The mind of the letter-writer must in some

sort have changed ere he wrote 'Adonais.'—But how curious does it seem to find at any period of his career, the author of 'Marianne's Dream,' and 'The Witch of Atlas,' and 'Prince Athanase,' qualifying his admiration of Keats, owing to the difficulty of reading him!

Very nearly as large a portion of this book is devoted to the poet's "Mary" as to himself,—and contains extracts from journals, especially those written in the agony of her first days of widowhood, letters to, and letters from her. Much, too, is here concerning her after arduous struggle with life, and her authorship. It is not hard to understand why the latter in some respects disappointed expectations, pitched at a perilous height by the daring and singularity of her 'Frankenstein.' Among the letters to her, not because of any relevancy to her own story, but as a specimen of humour, we give one from *Elio*:—

"Enfield, July 20th, 1827.

"Dear Mrs. Shelley,—At the risk of throwing away some fine thoughts, I must write to say how pleased we were with your very kind remembering of us (who have unkindly run away from all our friends) before you go. Perhaps you are gone, and then my tropes are wasted. If any piece of better fortune has lighted upon you than you expected, but less than we wish you, we are rejoiced. We are here trying to like solitude, but have scarce enough to justify the experiment. We get some, however. The six days are our Sabbath: the seventh—why, Cockneys will come for a little fresh air; and so—But by your month, or October at furthest, we hope to see Islington; I, like a giant refreshed with the leaving off of wine; and Mary pining for Mr. Moxon's books and Mr. Moxon's society. Then we shall meet. I am busy with a farce in two acts, the incidents *tragi-comic*. I can do the dialogue, *comedy* for: but the damn'd plot—I think I must omit it altogether. The scenes come after one another like geese, not marshalling like cranes, or a Hyde Park review. The story is as simple as G.D., and the language plain as his spouse. The characters are three women to one man; which is one more than laid hold on him in the 'Evangelist.' I think that prophecy squinted towards my drama. I want some Howard Paine to sketch a skeleton of artfully succeeding scenes through a whole play: as the courses are arranged in a cookery-book. I to find wit, passion, sentiment, character, and the like trifles. To lay in the dead colours; I'd Titianesque 'em up. To mark the channel in a cheek (smooth or furrowed, yours or mine); and, where tears should course, I'd draw the waters down. To say where a joke should come in, or a pun be left out. To bring my *personae* on and off like a Beau Nash; and I'd Frankenstein them there. To bring three together on the stage at once; they are so shy with me, that I can get no more than two, and there they stand, till it is the time, without being the season, to withdraw them. I am teaching Emma Latin, to qualify her for a superior governess-ship, which we see no prospect of her getting. 'Tis like feeding a child with chopped hay from a spoon. Sisyphus his labours were as nothing to it. Actives and passives jostle in her nonsense, till a deponent enters, like Chaos, more to embroil the fray. Her prepositions are suppositions; her conjunctions copulative have no connexion in them; her *concordis* disagree; her interjections are purely English, 'Ah!' and 'Oh!' with a yawn and a gape in the same tongue; and she herself is a lazy, blockheadly supine. As I say to her, *as in presenti* rarely makes a wise man in *futuro*. But I daresay it was so with you when you began Latin—and a good while after. Good-bye! Mary's love. Yours truly,

C. LAMB."

About the most interesting pages in the volume relating to Mrs. Shelley are those in which she reasoned out her abstinence from certain topics, in the discussion of which it had been assumed that the daughter of the Author of 'Rights of Woman' must take the part of a pioneer and priestess. The following bears

every impress of sincerity; it is a fragment from a journal:—

"October 21st, 1838.—I have been so often abused by pretended friends for my lukewarmness in 'the good cause,' that, though I disdain to answer them, I shall put down here a few thoughts on this subject. I am much of a self-examiner. Vanity is not my fault, I think: if it is, it is uncomfortable vanity, for I have none that teaches me to be satisfied with myself; far otherwise,—and, if I use the word *disdain*, it is that I think my qualities (such as they are) not appreciated, from unworthy causes. In the first place, with regard to 'the good cause'—the cause of the advancement of freedom and knowledge, of the rights of women, &c.—I am not a person of opinions. I have said elsewhere that human beings differ greatly in this. Some have a passion for reforming the world; others do not cling to particular opinions. That my parents and Shelley were of the former class, makes me respect it. I respect such when joined to real disinterestedness, toleration, and a clear understanding. My accusers, after such as these, appear to me mere drivellers. For myself, I earnestly desire the good and enlightenment of my fellow-creatures, and see all, in the present course, tending to the same, and rejoice; but I am not for violent extremes, which only bring on an injurious reaction. I have never written a word in disfavour of liberalism: that I have not supported it openly in writing, arises from the following causes, as far as I know:—That I have not argumentative powers: I see things pretty clearly, but cannot demonstrate them. Besides, I feel the counter arguments too strongly. I do not feel that I could say ought to support the cause efficiently; besides that, on some topics, (especially with regard to my own sex), I am far from making up my mind. I believe we are sent here to educate ourselves, and that self-denial, and disappointment, and self-control, are a part of our education; that it is not by taking away all restraining law that our improvement is to be achieved; and, though many things need great amendment, I can by no means go so far as my friends would have me. When I feel that I can say what will benefit my fellow-creatures, I will speak; not before. Then, I recoil from the vulgar abuse of the inimical press; I do more than recoil: proud and sensitive, I act on the defensive—an inglorious position. To hang back, as I do, brings a penalty. I was nursed and fed with a love of glory. To be something great and good was the precept given me by my father: Shelley reiterated it. Alone and poor, I could only be something by joining a party; and there was much in me—the woman's love of looking up, and being guided, and being willing to do anything if any one supported and brought me forward—which would have made me a good partisan. But Shelley died and I was alone. My father, from age and domestic circumstances, could not 'me faire valoir.' My total friendlessness, my horror of pushing, and inability to put myself forward unless led, cherished and supported,—all this has sunk me in a state of loneliness no other human being ever before. I believe endured—except Robinson Crusoe. How many tears and spasms of anguish this solitude has cost me, lies buried in my memory. If I had raved and ranted about what I did not understand; had I adopted a set of opinions, and propagated them with enthusiasm; had I been careless of attack, and eager for notoriety: then the party to which I belonged had gathered round me, and I had not been alone. It has been the fashion with these same friends to accuse me of worldliness. There indeed, in my own heart and conscience, I take a high ground. I may distrust my own judgment too much—be too indolent and too timid; but in conduct I am above merited blame. I like society; I believe all persons who have any talent (who are in good health) do. The soil that gives forth nothing, may lie ever fallow; but that which produces—however humble its product—needs cultivation, change of harvest, refreshing dews, and ripening sun. Books do much; but the living intercourse is the vital heat. Debarred from that, how have I pined and died. \* \* If I write the above, it is that those who love me may hereafter know that I



am not all to blame, nor merit the heavy accusations cast on me for not putting myself forward. I cannot do that; it is against my nature. As well cast me from a precipice, and rail at me for not flying."

The above is not made the less genuine because of the under-current of that explanation, not to say recantation, which women who have begun life by defying custom and opinion rarely fail to offer in some form or other, as the passions deaden and experience ripens. The confession is not without its mournfulness; but the whole book is as mournful a one as

a sound and a dream from the moaning sea,—

nor can we imagine any, written on its subject, to have more health and hopefulness in its tone. We presume that it is to be accepted as the final memorial of him whose ashes lie under the shadow of the Pyramid of Caius Cestius, and of her who toiled on with a broken wing and a weary heart, after the exciting and chequered happiness of a few years of singular married life was brought to an abrupt and terrible close.

*Campaigning Experiences in Rajpootana and Central India, during the Suppression of the Mutiny, 1857-1858.* By Mrs. Henry Duberly. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

A heroine, who has had the "Crimean medal almost in her grasp," and who rode 1,800 miles through Central India with the gallant 8th Hussars, in pursuit of Tantia, would, it might be imagined, startle the world with her experiences. We opened this volume, therefore, in all the flush of expectation. These hopes, however, have been rudely disappointed, and we carry away scarce a new idea as trophy of the campaign we have shared with Mrs. Duberly. The truth is, ladies, unless it may be the Rani of Jhansi, see little of a battle but the dust, even when they heroically follow the line of march. They must describe at second-hand the most brilliant incidents of the soldier's life. They cannot expect to be at home in the camp, and we are heartily glad they are not.

On Friday, the 29th of January, 1858, the Indian campaign of the 8th Hussars commenced. They landed that day at Mandavi, in Kachh, and it was not till the 29th of March that they first heard the guns of the enemy at Kotah, in Rájputáná. Their *début* was not a successful one. They formed part of that cavalry and artillery column, 1,500 strong, which marched down to the river to intercept the fugitives from Kotah—marched down, and then marched back again. The history of this exploit is thus recounted:—

"We heard the next day that while we were watching the town, between two and three P.M., the remainder of the mutineers were escaping from the opposite gate. They evacuated the town in haste, but without disorder, passing quickly over the plain until they reached a few houses known as 'The Rebels' Village,' where they formed for their march. It will naturally be asked—'Where were the 1,500 cavalry and artillery at this time, and what were they doing towards the destruction of the flying enemy?' The cavalry and artillery reached the ford at the appointed time, and had traversed half its width, in spite of the difficulties which it presented, when some one with keener eyes than the rest, discovered what he declared to be a gun pointed on the wading force. On nearer and careful examination, it proved to be a black buffalo grazing. At last, after a good deal of delay, and some little disorder, the ford was crossed. I hesitate to describe what followed. The cavalry and artillery were immediately halted on the river bank, and the men remained standing to their horses or lying under the trees until two o'clock, when the enemy, unable to endure the fierce assault of the infantry, fled across the plain, carrying with them their arms, ammunition, and treasure! Surely on receipt of this intelligence the cavalry

must have started in hot pursuit. No. Far from it. *They remained where they halted all that day and all that night; and the next morning they marched into Kotah, and then returned to their original halting-place by the ford!*"

At Gwalior, however, the gallant 8th had a better opportunity of distinguishing themselves. Headed by Captains Heneage and Poore, they chased the enemy as they would have chased a fox. Their own casualties were one officer and seven men, and Mrs. Duberly says, oddly enough, "The loss on our side has been totally inadequate to the work done." Shortly afterwards occurs the following curious account of the once-famous beauty, the wife of Daulat Rao Sindhia, who was married to him in 1798, and still lives, and boasts that she rode by his side at the battle of Assaye:—"The lustre of her still glorious eyes," says Mrs. Duberly, "reminded me of the light which shines through port wine when held against the light!" It may be added, that the name of the lady with the singular eyes is strangely disfigured. It should be Baiza Bai, "Lady Candida," but it is here written Bhæ-si-bhæ. There are several historical summaries, too, which are sadly inaccurate; and in one of them, where the surrender of Baji Rao Peshwa is mentioned, it is said, "the Governor-General, Lord Hardinge, took care to limit the stipulated allowance to the smallest sum mentioned in the treaty!" Baji Rao surrendered on the 3rd of June, 1818, and we certainly were not aware that Lord Hardinge was then Governor-General. In another place, we are told of General Munson's retreat. Such mistakes are really unpardonable, and show with how little care the book has been brought out.

The only passage in the book which contains anything of novelty is that in which the surprise of Mán Singh's force in November last year is related. It is as follows:—

"At the village where we rested, the monsters were said to have burnt a woman and two children about two hours before our arrival; and the inhabitants, who were eager for revenge, gave us, for once, truthful intelligence. The camp was pitched, and the troops allowed to sleep until half-past two: at half-past three A.M., without sound of trumpet or bugle, the men fell silently in, and we marched cautiously towards the spot at which Maun Sing was encamped. When we had proceeded about two miles the Quartermaster-General's spies again met us, and said that the whole camp was asleep, being perfectly unaware of our approach. I was riding with my husband amongst the advanced guard, and could, therefore, note how silently the men marched; the only noise was caused by a scabbard striking against a stirrup or a spur. Just at dawn the column halted, the 95th and 10th Native Infantry went to the front; the Cavalry followed, in front of, and alongside the guns; and a few minutes later the Artillery broke into a gallop, unlimbered, and got into action at about 300 yards without a moment's loss of time. The enemy awoke, startled and confused. They turned and fled, leaving not only the whole of their camp equipage, but, in some cases, their very children behind. Clothes, food, arms, and burning embers strewn the ground, and several Sepoy pouches and belts were lying about. We pursued at a gallop, the guns getting into action whenever an opportunity offered, but the execution was chiefly done by the Hussars and Lancers. Between 600 and 700 were computed to have been slain; and the jungles were filled with wounded men. Maun Sing, aroused by the first gun, threw himself on his fast and famous cream-coloured horse, and galloped for his life. His tents, camels, cooking vessels, and clothing, all fell into our hands. Our casualties were chiefly among the horses. Captain Harris, Bombay Horse Artillery, was the only officer wounded. He was shot through the arm from behind a bush, in some jungle. There would, doubtless, have been many more casualties,

but the matchlock-men had no time to light their matches; consequently, the only shots were those fired from sepoy muskets. Two Enfield rifles were picked up, marked Grenadier Company, 88th Regiment, and between fifty and sixty prisoners were taken. We heard the next day that Runjeet Sing, Maun Sing's uncle, was among the slain. Some circumstances that came under my notice were very distressing. A man shot in the head, and who was bleeding profusely from his wound, was tended by his little daughter, apparently about twelve years old, who held up her hands imploring mercy and pity as we passed. Nor was I the only one who tried to re-assure and comfort her. One of our servants, when he joined us later in the day, brought with him a little boy, about seven years old, whom he found standing by his dead father, who had been shot and had fallen from his horse. The dead man, the child and horse were in a group, and our servant charitably took the child and placing him before him on his own horse, brought him into camp. I became possessed too of a small white dog, which, together with a baby of six or seven months old, was found lying on a bed, from whence the mother, frenzied, I suppose, by terror, had fled, and left her child behind! The little one was sitting up and laughing, pleased at the horses and soldiers as they passed. This child was also brought on and given to the care of a woman in our camp, and the little dog was sent to me. I was told of a woman who, in the action of Bejapore, was endeavouring to escape with her child, but in the agony of fear she clasped it so closely to her side, that in her passionate efforts to save its life, she had squeezed it to death, and was still flying with it hanging over her arm, and pressed as closely as ever, but dead and cold. We halted for one day after the fight at Koondrye, where nine of the prisoners were shot before marching on the 16th towards Mongroolee, which we reached on the 18th. It seems to me that all this Indian warfare is unsatisfactory work, and although it may be true that in this rebellion severity is mercy, yet, on the other hand, there have been cases of ruthless slaughter, of which perhaps the less said the better."

Few who take up Mrs. Duberly's book will look at the Appendix. It is, nevertheless, by far the most useful part of the volume, being the route of the 8th Hussars from Mandavi to join Brigadier Smith in Central India, with many of their subsequent marches and counter-marches. This will be useful to future writers on the Revolt; but its accuracy will require testing, if we may judge from what precedes it.

*The Navies of the World; their Present State and Future Capabilities.* By Hans Busk, M.A. With Illustrations. (Routledge & Co.)

It is a sure sign of the growing interest in a subject when the "cheap books" about it begin to appear. These form a class by themselves, and for the most part display the same characteristics. The master-law of their being is cheapness—which involves limitation of space and neatness of treatment. But, unfortunately, the qualities needful to meet these requirements are not often compatible with the laws which preside over the remuneration of this branch of literature. On the whole, perhaps, the publisher, rather than anybody else, is the gainer by cheap books proper. They only inform the reading public superficially, and they expose the author to animadversions from which he would probably have been free, had he worked under happier conditions.

Mr. Busk's book on the great naval question gives one the notion that he has not had fair play. He seems to be obliged to cram his matter into too little room, for fear of encroaching beyond his fair share of the railway stalls. He uses the materials of expensive books, and they are too much for him: in boiling them down he boils over. So that, on the whole, there is a disjointed, embarrassed look about

the performance; and we fear that not even the judicious bits of flattery thrown in here and there to propitiate certain cynical journals, will have saved it from the critics.

Yet Mr. Busk's compilation has its merits. It is less lively and vigorous in style than the treatise of the "Naval Peer," but contains a greater amount of business-like detail. Nor is it, altogether, a *manufactured* book—like so many appearing under similar circumstances. The author has visited personally, for instance, the French arsenals, and can speak of them at first hand. We are glad to recognize this feature of the work. It would be mere affectation to ignore the fact, that it is the French navy which, among the "Navies of the World," is the most interesting to an Englishman, after his own. Let us see, therefore, how we stand relatively to the French afloat, according to Mr. Busk's facts—remembering, that since he completed his MS. each navy has advanced somewhat in these warlike days.

In the first place, we are to bear in mind that the perpetual changes going on very much complicate the question of the *efficiency* of a navy at any given time. If we only looked at the lists of our vessels, for instance, we might fancy ourselves beyond the reach of criticism. But every few years supersedes a whole batch of them, and we find Sir Baldwin Walker giving this melancholy account of our *sailing ships* in September last:—

"With the exception of some of the more recently-built frigates, there is scarcely a sailing ship which in its present state is fit to go to sea, and most of them require such extensive repairs that it would not be desirable to incur the expense. As regards the screw vessels, all the 80-gun screw ships which from necessity were converted, have the same armament as they had as sailing vessels, and are consequently so much pressed with their weights, and cramped for stowage, as to render them bad sea boats. . . . All these 80-gun screw ships ought not therefore to be considered as forming part of the effective screw force, but can only be regarded as vessels fit to replace the block-ships for home service. The latter, from their great age, are so defective that they will not be worth repairing after their present commission. To show the superiority of the French ships of the corresponding class (80 guns), it may be stated that 5 were reduced from 100, and 10 from 90-gun ships, and are, therefore, not only more powerful sailing ships, but better enabled to stow their machinery, &c., than the English 80-gun screw ships."

It is obvious that for active ships at sea, among sailing ships, we must mainly look to such as can be "converted." But conversion with ships (as with men) does not always imply practical improvement. Several 80-gun ships built between 1842 and 1853 have gone through the process with so little success, as to be unfit for sending any distance from home. Of 43 sailing liners on the list only *four* are being made into screws just now. Mr. Busk twice tells us (p. 65, and Appendix, n. p. 51) that we possess "13 or 15"—he is not clear which—sailing liners in an "effective" state. He enumerates 13 (exclusive of the four being converted) by name, in one of his lists, and they are chiefly guard-ships, or even (in one case) coal-dépôts! It is only with difficulty, by the way, that we can ascertain what Mr. Busk really believes on this particular point; for he uses the word "serviceable" in one paragraph as if it implied "seaworthy," and, having done so, astonishes us in the next by asserting, that only a single sailing liner in the navy deserves the description in question! We hesitate, indeed, while concluding (after an amount of mental torture which we would not wish our subscribers to suffer) that this last is what Mr. Busk intends; and that the serviceableness

predicated of his 13 (see p. 65) really means only a general serviceableness for sea at a great pinch, such as might fairly be attributed (for instance) to the Formidable, which Londoners occasionally visit at Sheerness. The French have 14 sailing liners, three of which are being converted, and one of which (Le Suffren, 82, at Cherbourg) carries six rifled guns.

But whenever the tug of war comes now-a-days, between great nations on a great scale, it will come in the form of an action between screw liners. So it will be well to consider how Great Britain and France stand towards each other at present, when—

Strange things come up to look at us,  
The monsters of the deep—

creatures unknown to the sea-world of Collingwood and Nelson. Mr. Busk makes up his calculations to April of the present year. It would seem, then, that at that time the British Navy possessed nine screw vessels of more than a hundred guns, six of them three-deckers; thirteen of ninety-one guns, two being old "converted" three-deckers; four of ninety guns, one being "converted"; nine of eighty guns; and one of seventy. These are all *line-of-battle* ships strictly—exclusive of guard and block ships, and of vessels on the stocks. The list of the French Navy included at the same period, six screw vessels of more than a hundred guns, sixteen nineties and eleven eighties. The mere numbers were, thus, thirty-two British to thirty-three French. A careful examination of the Tables in Mr. Busk's Appendix (the most valuable part of his book) is necessary, however, to a full appreciation of the importance of the numbers. If we take La Bretagne, 130, with her 1,200 horse-power, against the Duke of Wellington, 131, with her 780, the advantage would seem to be on the side of the French ship. But the Duke's speed is over ten knots an hour—a point in which we suspect the French vessel would not exceed her. And a comparison of our whole first-rates as a body with the French ones is at least as encouraging. Three of them mount 131 guns, and one 121; while the French drop from the Bretagne armament to 114 at once; and all but her are properly only ships of the line "with auxiliary screws," hardly equal, on the whole, to our Royal Sovereign, Marlborough, and Royal Albert. Our naval men, indeed, claim a superiority for us in respect of these great castles, which stand at the head of naval floating fortifications. The French nineties, however, there seems no reason to doubt, are fine liners, fit to figure in any line of battle that could be formed in our days.

A surprising feature of any comparison between the two navies is the lee-way we appear to have made in the matter of frigates. Many of our sailing frigates have, of course, become obsolete; but what does the reader think of the following?—

"In the last six years, France has increased her steam frigates from 21 to 57, and England hers, from 22 to 34, and her 60-gun block-ships from 4 to 9. This great superiority in steam frigates on the part of France, in the event of war, might be of serious consequence to this country, especially in relation to the interruption of commerce. \* \* It was avowedly only in July, 1858, that our Admiralty became really aware of the formidable dimensions the French Marine was gradually assuming. The Times had on more than one occasion long before uttered notes of warning. The fact was perfectly well known to many private individuals, who freely volunteered information they had diligently acquired with some difficulty by their own exertions. The reply almost invariably was, however, that nothing could take place in the French ports or arsenals that was not duly reported by the various consuls to our officials at home. Of the value of the information so obtained every one will

form his own estimate from the admission of the First Lord of the Admiralty on the 25th of February last, that he and his coadjutors had only discovered six months previously what was long before patent enough to any one who had taken the trouble to investigate the subject. At the above time, the French fleet literally comprised as many screw line-of-battle ships as the Royal Navy itself—that is to say, each country possessed 20. The French numbered fewer three-deckers, but, on the other hand, we had 9 ships of the line inferior to any of theirs. Though numerically equal, therefore, there was a humiliating inferiority of efficiency on our side, in line-of-battle ships at least. Of frigates, France actually possessed 12 more than England. No reliable list of French ships, giving trustworthy details as to their ages, capacity, power, &c., has ever hitherto been published in this country; it has never been furnished, however, side by side with that of the Royal Navy, will show better than anything else the relative state of preparation of the two Powers. These important catalogues require to be attentively studied. The reader will find that we have afloat 19 screw and 9 paddle frigates, while upon the stocks and rapidly approaching completion are six more 'screws'; the total number of frigates will therefore stand 34. The French, on the other hand, have afloat 15 screws and 19 paddle steamers of this denomination, 1 converting, 3 receiving their engines, and 8 building, being a total of 46. This, compared with matters as they stood not many years since, is certainly a most unwelcome state of things. In 1812 we possessed 245 ships of the line and 272 frigates; France but 113 line-of-battle ships and 72 frigates. In 1820, the numbers were 146 English liners and 164 frigates, while the French possessed 58 liners and 39 frigates. In 1840 there were 89 English liners and 180 frigates against 44 French line-of-battle ships and 56 frigates."

It is to be hoped that this state of things will never be tolerated again. And certainly we have lately been preparing frigates such as frigates ought to be—the Doris and Diadem, for example, which are very fast and very heavily armed,—two primequalities in scientific naval war.

In discussing the great problems arising out of the new state of sea affairs, and which at best can be only unsatisfactorily discussed as yet, Mr. Busk falls below the occasion. Chapter VIII., in which Naval Tactics are discussed, is a mere abridgment, as far as they are concerned, of what has been said better and more reliably by Sir Howard Douglas. *Apud* of this branch of the subject, every writer ought to urge upon our Government the necessity of squadrons of evolution, one of the strong points of the "Naval Peer's" treatise. When any serious attempt is made at sea by the French, it is likely to be tried on a considerable scale, and with all the advantages which science can promise to a people conscious that nothing but superior science will give them the ghost of a chance. Nothing was so sedulously attended to by the French squadrons in the Prince de Joinville's time, as all readers of his well-written essays are aware. On the other hand, how many of us have been years on a great naval station without ever forming part of a squadron of ten sail of the line; or when it was formed, what loose order was kept, what incessant signalling, grumbling, and snubbing, was perpetually going forward! In the great old period, a fleet kept together, night and day, like a pack of hounds; and if a vessel did get "out of her station" in the middle watch, a signal from the admiral's ship after quarters next morning brought the lieutenant who had had charge of it aboard to explain, sure, not of a "wiggling,"—for Collingwood was as fine a gentleman as ever lived,—but of a word of melancholy rebuke not easy for a high-minded man to bear! To be sure, *seamanship*, in the strict sense, will not universally be so required, nor so potent,



as it formerly was; for instance, there will not be those struggles for the weather-gage which form so striking a part of the antique system of evolutions. But we suspect that the fashionable notion, which would make seamanship superfluous in future, is a mistaken one. Even supposing a fine day, perfectly smooth water, plenty of coals, and two squadrons advancing on each other, bare-masted, it will be knowledge of manœuvres on water, as distinct from those on land, that will determine the advantage. This, however, is only a branch of seamanship, the same study with the conditions altered; not to mention that a disabled screw, a mast carried away, and such like events, will instantly call for sailor-like resource. Well, then, a reader may suggest, if we first beat the French as Norsemen with battle-axe and spear,—again, as Norman-English with sword and lance in feudal galleys,—again, when cannon came up with cutlasses and twenty-fours,—why not, now, with steam and rifled cannon? Why, indeed? The blood is here, and the wood and iron as in the days of our fathers. But it implies no distrust of our race, nor of the Providence which has favoured it so long, if we insist that care be taken to prepare for the struggle with every means in our power. The unthinking, who sneer at all so-called "croakers," should remember that some of the birds which croaked in antiquity had a value in Divination.

At the present time, while the honey of the venerable Lyndhurst's eloquence still perfumes the summer air, any book, meaning well and containing information on Naval subjects, deserves a certain amount of encouragement. Mr. Busk's work deserves a place among books useful in the study of his subject. Literature and Journalism are doing their share of naval preparation, at all events; and if our Governments fall short, it will be entirely their own fault.

*Personal Narrative of Military Travel and Adventure in Turkey and Persia.* By Robert Macdonald. (Edinburgh, Black.)

AN ex-sergeant of the Rifle Brigade has written a book in the old-fashioned style, "comprising a brief sketch of the chequered life of the author." It begins with an avowal of humble parentage, followed up by a claim to long descent "from the chiefs of the Highland clan of Macdonald, a tribe whose mournful fate in the valley of Glencoe contributes so dark a page to the annals of British history." His mother, though poor, "was a useful and strong-minded woman," and he himself, hero of these adventures and travels, was born in 1804 at Bonnie-view, on the Braes of Gask. On the slopes of Kinnoul, as a silent boy, he dreamed of military glory; but it was not until past twenty years of age that, wandering destitute in London, he stopped to watch the planet Mars:—

"While I walked along, brooding over my misfortunes, and thinking what course of life I should adopt and pursue, I began to repeat the names of the different planets. I am not credulous enough to believe that the stars have any rule over our destiny; yet it was strange that, when I was calling over the roll of the planets, I stood as if I had been nailed to the ground when I came to Mars, and repeated over its name two or three times. Mars, I inwardly said, is the god of war. No sooner had I said this, than I resolved to become one of his sons. This circumstance had the effect of fixing my resolution in the twinkling of an eye. All the enthusiasm of my youth instantly took possession of my soul. I was now determined to become a soldier."

Into the Rifle Brigade he went, and, soon after his dismissal from recruits' drill, became a lance-corporal. In this capacity he assisted

in a crusade against certain smugglers, and then undertook to recruit for His Majesty's army:—

"To be fit for a service of this kind, at least as it is generally gone about, one must have a feeling and fascinating manner, a talent for singing and speechifying, and a taste for deep-drinking and dissipation."

Promoted, in 1836, to the rank of sergeant, he went with seven other sergeants and a captain on special service to Persia to aid the Shah in the drilling his army. And he liked this chance of activity. "My prayers," I am sorry to say, "were oftener for war than for the good of my soul." And thus he plunges into the story of his wanderings through Turkey and Persia, and of the political events of which he was a contemporary. At Teheran there were two Persian regiments, one of which was handed over to the sergeants for rifle discipline:—

"On one like me, who had always been accustomed to the well-disciplined, steady, and fine martial appearance of the British troops, you may guess what impression was produced by the unsoldier-like appearance and defective discipline of the rabble of men we had now to deal with. Their very appearance was enough to make us despair of ever making anything of them, and, my word for it, we had to labour hard indeed before we got them into anything like a moderate comprehension of their exercise. We tried to instruct them in their drill at first with mild and humane treatment; but we soon found that nothing could be done with them by acting in this way, so we were forced to sacrifice our kindly feelings and act the tyrant, before we could establish our authority among them, or get them to learn anything. We always carried good strong sticks with us to drill; it was with these that we hammered the drill into their heads, and it was nothing strange to see the whole eight of us return from drill with our sticks broken to splinters."

Fine sergeants and fine soldiers! The sergeants could not talk Persian, and the soldiers could not understand English, so that the stick did it all. But Mr. Macdonald sometimes met with a more genial adventure, for, if we may judge from his narrative, a British uniform was a thing of beauty in the land of roses:—

"As I was returning from a bazaar, where I had been making some purchases, and was walking gently along a narrow street, with my servant behind me, I met a woman, who, to my great astonishment, though several people were passing at the time, threw aside her veil, opened her *shadar* wide, took me into her arms, and embraced me, kissing me two or three times, then gave me a regular loving squeeze, and walked away without a word of explanation of her extraordinary conduct. I never was so much ashamed in my life, yet, when I think of it, I had more occasion to be proud than ashamed, for I believe there are but few Christian strangers that can boast of having received such an expression of regard from the lips of a Moslem female."

You were sadly deceived, we fear, ex-sergeant Macdonald of Bonnie-view! However, he prospered in Persia, and although he came home thoroughly impressed with the vanity of human wishes, the fault had been chiefly his own, for, like certain other folks who have settled awhile in the East, he had expected to live in a social kaleidoscope. Ultimately, at Dublin, he retired from the army, married, started in business with a capital of one thousand pounds sterling, failed, was struck down by sickness, and lost his wife, so that the narrative, generally sententious and solemn, concludes in a somewhat melancholy and regretful vein. Altogether, the volume is characteristic as a fragment of genuine and diversified, although humble, autobiography.

*La Plata, the Argentine Confederation, and Paraguay: being a Narrative of the Exploration of the Tributaries of the River La Plata and adjacent Countries during the Years 1853, '54, '55 and '56, under the Orders of the United States Government.* By Thomas T. Page, U.S.N. With Maps and numerous Engravings. (Triibner & Co.)

THE exploration of a vast river-system, and the opening of a commercial communication with a comparatively undeveloped though unusually productive country, are circumstances no less interesting to diplomatists than geographers. South America has, until recently, been in the condition of an encumbered estate: its broad rivers have been only stirred by the navigation of wild fowl, and its plains only conscious of the colonial gambols of monkeys, capinchas, and wild horses. Successive floods have floated downward masses of flowers and fruit, and, pausing in their wild course, sprinkled at capricious intervals the foundations of picturesque islands. Here the self-sown willow throws a green archway over the water; at another point the peach and the orange have taken floral possession of an islet, and the seibo made the light gorgeous with its leaves and bloom. From the upper waters of the Parana come drifting troops of *camilotes*, or large water-lilies, and in the lagoons are anchored "islands of the 'Victoria Regia,' or 'Mais del Agua' (corn of the water), as it is called in the country"; for its seeds are powdered into meal, from which is made excellent and nutritious bread. Lithe air-plants and parasites coil round the giant trunks, and swing from tree to tree, a trellis of flowers. The view from the masthead of a steamer is described as a wilderness of flowers and fruit.

But it is the practical less than the picturesque which a discoverer has to note; and, accordingly, Capt. Page's book is occupied rather with soundings, currents, winds, ports, treaties, lines of communication, and South American staples. The expedition which the author commanded was sent out to La Plata by the United States Government in 1853, when Rosas had been defeated and put to flight, and Urquiza was elected Provisional Director of the Argentine Confederation. One of the first decrees of that sagacious man was to open the river navigation to the world,—an advantage the energetic Government of the States was not slow to seize. Within a few months an expedition was fitted out "to explore the rivers, and to report upon the extent of their navigability and adaptation to commerce." Incidentally, too, the commander was directed to penetrate into the interior, examine into the natural history and agricultural resources of the country, and to negotiate with the Republic of Paraguay a treaty of commerce and navigation. The course of the expedition was along the Parana and its affluents for a thousand miles to the confluence of the Paraguay, thence to Asuncion and the disputed boundary-land of Brazil and Paraguay; eastward by the Parana to Salto and Salto Grande; by the river from Santa Fé to Cordova, Santiago, Tucuman; and by land to the upper waters of Salada and to Salta. Westward and southward we have a minute survey of the Pilcomayo, the Vermejo, and the lower reaches of the Parana and the Paraguay. By an arbitrary decree of the President of Paraguay, the exploration of the higher waters of the Parana was abandoned at the moment of highest interest, the steamer which Capt. Page commanded being fired upon.

The interest of the narrative commences with a "pampero" off the coast of Brazil, which tested the capabilities of the Water Witch as a



sea boat, and "the superiority of the Morgan wheel, with which she was fitted, over that of the common radial wheel for steamers. Although at times nearly submerged to its centre, the vertical entry of its buckets into the water enabled it to move with uniformity, and without derangement or strain to the anchoring." With a few changes in its application, the author is of opinion that this mechanical invention might be rendered, what it did not altogether prove to the Water Witch, very effective. The real starting-point of the La Plata basin and of the exploration is Buenos Ayres, and to that city Capt. Page was introduced in what appears to be its chronic condition—a time of civil war, and the excitement previous to a bombardment. The squadron upon which Urquiza depended proved false, the commander going over to the hostile party, it was reported, for a bribe of 13,000 ounces. The Provisional Director and his suite embarked on board the Water Witch—an act of friendship which secured to the United States an important treaty. While it was being prepared at Urquiza's estancia or farm, the General proposed that his guests should ride out and see the process of branding cattle. We may accompany them round Urquiza's house and grounds:

"His dwelling is built of stone, and in the massive style of the houses of Buenos Ayres. It is of one story, forms a quadrangle of about eighty feet, and contains eight or ten spacious and lofty rooms; from the roof rose two handsome turrets, commanding extensive views of his estancia. In every direction, his own lands extended far beyond the horizon; and this was only one of several estates. Within a few miles of his house he had forbidden his grounds to all sportsmen; consequently, herds of deer, ostriches, and innumerable partridges, large and small, were seen in every direction. I counted as many as fifty ostriches in a flock, some of them in the court of the dwelling, and as tame as barn-door fowls. They are caught in great numbers; the ostrich with the bolas, the small partridge with the noose, and the larger species with dogs. The small partridge crouches close to the ground; a man on horseback, with a long stick, at the end of which is a noose, approaches, and rides in a circle round the frightened bird. As if under the influence of a spell, or charmed by the man's eye, it sits quietly while the rider gradually contracts the circle, until near enough to slip the noose over its head. The large partridge usually makes two, but occasionally three flights. On first rising it is pursued at full speed by the mounted gaucho and his dog; for, while on the wing, there is nothing to hide it from the eye of the sportsman; and scarcely has it touched the earth, when again it is 'put up,' and, flying until exhausted, it conceals itself in the long grass, where it is ferreted out by the dog. Some idea of the income of such an estancia as Urquiza's may be formed when I state that upon this of San José there were 70,000 sheep, 40,000 head of cattle, and 2,000 horses. Among the latter were several *Manadas*, of a beautiful mouse colour, called *Lobunos*, or 'otter-like;' others of *Oeras*, or 'piebald.' These studs were carefully kept apart, to avoid any mingling of colour or characteristic. I cannot imagine a more beautiful sight than the herds of these fine animals coursing over the rich lands of San José. The value of each in the United States would reach some hundreds of dollars; here one could be bought for sixteen. On the third day after our arrival at San José, the treaty having been concluded and signed by the 'Provisional Director,' we prepared for our return to Buenos Ayres. The promptness and good faith shown in this negotiation are worthy of praise, when we remember that diplomacy is the forte of the Spanish American, and that one of their marked characteristics is to postpone for the morrow that which should be done to-day."

The La Plata basin is formed by the two great rivers Parana and Uruguay, with their numerous affluents. Twenty-four miles below the junction of these two rivers lies the Island

of Martin Garcia—an island as important, in a military point of view, as the Rock of Perim or the Aland Isles. The river at this point is twenty-five miles broad, and every vessel "bound up" either the Parana or Paraguay must pass within range of the island. The principal branch by which the Parana enters the Uruguay is the passage through which Sebastian Cabot entered the Parana, and to which he gave the name of Las Palmas.

Two hundred and forty miles from the mouth of the river stands Diamante, the apex of a delta, formed by an arm of the river. Intermediate is the rising town of Rosario, which a projected line of railway will connect with Cordova and the fruitful provinces of the West—a town, the commercial capabilities of which, in the author's opinion, are superior to those of Buenos Ayres. After a survey of the left bank of the Parana, we pass to the fertile country of Corrientes, twenty miles below the junction of the Paraguay.

Asuncion still lies under the fear of Francia, "though his name is rarely pronounced. In life he was *El Supremo*; since his death they allude to him and his deeds as *El Defunto*." The aspect of the streets is Francianized:—

"Owing to the extraordinary edicts of Francia, the streets are regular, and the frontage of the houses even; for any luckless proprietor whose building impaired this uniformity during his administration had the satisfaction of having it, without previous intimation, undermined, halved, or quartered, as the exigencies of the case might require. A piece was nicely sliced off, leaving saloons and bed-rooms minus half their previous dimensions. Some of these unfortunate tenements are still standing, looking like a 'big loaf' after dinner."

Off Concepcion a steamer is a strange phenomenon, and in the town we assist at a ball:—

"People from a long distance in the interior flocked to see the wonderful bark. Men, women, and children crowded on board, and would sit for hours under the awning of the deck, seemingly astonished and delighted at all they saw, and eagerly questioning the old Guarani pilot as to the meaning of many things to them so incomprehensible. We were invited on the first evening of our arrival to a ball at the commandante's, where were assembled all the beauty and distinction of the place. The floor of the ball-room was of tile, the lights tallow; indeed, there was little to meet a cosmopolitan standard of elegance, but the good-breeding and native tact of the people made it an occasion of enjoyment to us all. There is no village or region of the earth so small or remote as not to have its 'upper ten.' The knowledge of this fact placed me in a dilemma. Being the 'Señor Commandante,' I was expected to select, as a partner for the waltz, the most distinguished lady present. When all looked alike, it was impossible to discriminate: a mistake would have been a national insult. In this quandary, I placed myself in the hands of the commandante, who dashed off to a formidable row of females at the upper end of the room, from whence he brought forth a partner, assuring me she danced divinely. This I could not doubt, for what woman in Spanish America can't waltz, and waltz well! but was she one of a class so often found in this country, that 'never tires'? The music began; off we started, followed by the officers of the Water Witch, and all the belles and beaux of the town. Round and round, whirl and whirl—'Bravo, Señor Commandante!'—the invariable exclamation of our host as we passed—began to sound faintly in my ear; on, on we flew; I no longer supported the lady; she carried me round. Was I about to realize the theory of perpetual motion? Sight and sounds were growing dim and confused, when, perhaps aroused by the noisy 'bravo' of the commandante, I gathered my failing strength, broke away from the fair lady, and beat a retreat from the room. I was fairly danced down. When I returned after a few moments' absence, the señorita had found another partner, and was whirl-

ing again, looking as fresh and smiling as if just beginning the dance. The refreshments consisted of cakes, red wine, *caña*, and, above all, the important and refreshing *maté*."

Here is a cave near Albuquerque on the Paraguay, the Grotto Inferno:—

"Descending cautiously upon hands and feet, we reached the margin of a lake, and found ourselves in a magnificent irregularly shaped hall, embracing an area of about two thousand feet. Its roof, varying from twenty to forty feet in height, rested on columns, symmetrical and grand, as if designed and placed there by accomplished architects and skilful workmen. Between the columns were stalagmites, rising in the form of pillars, four, five, and six feet in height, standing at regular distances, like sentinels suddenly transformed into stone; the stalactical depositions were of the most beautiful and fantastic forms; and as the crystallized surfaces of sides, roof, and pillars reflected the blue lights and torches of our men, they glittered and shone with all the brilliancy and varied hues of gems. What ages must have elapsed while the great work had been going on for the meeting, drop by drop, of ascending and descending points, until those stupendous columns were formed! Ours was a noisy party, but in the momentary intervals of silence we heard the unceasing drip. Entrances, half concealed below the water, led to lateral branches, which we did not attempt to explore. Our men bathed in the sweet, limpid water of the lake, which had a depth of eighteen feet; temperature above the standard of our hydrometer, 75° 06', while that of the air was 80°; the latter, however, undoubtedly increased by the heat of the torches and the number of our party. The commandante assured me that this lake rises and falls with the periodical variations of the Paraguay. We toasted the divinities of the spot, until, warned by the waning lights, we gathered up specimens, and began a scramble for the mouth of the grotto."

Among the botanical wonders of the Paraguay we have the parasite *gumbe*:—

"I pulled one from the limb of a quebracho, thirty feet from the ground, to which its tendrils had descended, and taken root in the earth. This is one of the most useful plants in Paraguay, for from its fibre is manufactured an admirable rope, of which all the hawsers and tow-lines used by vessels in the river-trade are made; indeed, before the Revolution, it was extensively used in the navy of Spain. The *gumbe* and the *gumbetaya* are so similar in appearance that they are often confounded, but they have very different characteristics, as I ascertained by observation, which was confirmed by information derived from an intelligent Paraguayan, who had given some attention to the natural products of his country, and who had opportunities of observing these plants at all seasons. The *gumbe* is valuable for its bark only, the *gumbetaya* for its fruit. The latter takes root in the earth, generally near some large tree, around which it will entwine, and climb to the utmost branches with such a grasp as not unfrequently to destroy it. It bears a beautiful trumpet-shaped flower of a delicate straw-colour, which is succeeded by a fruit highly prized by the Indians. It is similar in appearance and taste to Indian corn, and is prepared and used by the natives in the same manner for bread. I had an opportunity of seeing both these plants growing, and have been thus particular in drawing the distinction between them, because Azara, generally an excellent authority, so far as he touches upon the botany of La Plata, speaks only of the *gumbe*, and assigns to it the characteristics of both plants."

To the topographer, geographer, and merchant, this is a book of wide and varied interest.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Last Recollections of a Musician*.—[*Derniers Souvenirs*, &c.] By Adolphe Adam. (Paris, Lévy.)—Our musical readers may perhaps recollect that we have always professed a higher value for Adolphe Adam, whether as man or as musician, than severe persons warrant; and this without pretending that we hold a pound of feathers as

more precious than a pound of lead. We know not where to direct them to a more agreeable volume than this, which contains reprints of past feuilletons. The subjects are, the "Youth of Haydn" (a composer who just now enjoys greater favour in France than in any other country),—Rameau, —Gluck and Méhul, —Monsigny, —Gossec, —Berton, —Cherubini, —the "Stabat Mater" of Signor Rossini, —the "Dame Blanche" of Boieldieu, —Donizetti, —and a concert given by M. Marrast, during the short-lived glories of 1849. —All these subjects, though touched with a hand light rather than pedantic, are reasoned out with a knowledge and—rarer still—a common sense not common in writers concerning Music. If composer of opera ever stood at the Antipodes to composer of opera, it was Cherubini to Adam; yet the latter could speak of the former in terms of unaffected admiration and reverence,—these not excluding nice appreciation of a character, the defects of which, on the surface, far outnumbered its attractions. "As a man," writes Adam, "Cherubini has been differently, and more than once, perhaps, unjustly, appreciated. Extremely nervous, brusque, irritable, absolute in his independence, his first movements almost always gave an unfavourable impression. He easily fell back on his nature, which was excellent, though he made efforts to disguise it under an outside the least possible flattering. Thus, in spite of the unevenness of his temper, [some there were who pretended that he had the evenest of possible tempers, as he was always in a passion:] he was adored by those who surrounded him."—Let us further recommend to all who care about French music—a number of students happily on the increase in this country, in spite of John Bull's obstinate resolution to have only one favourite school at a time—the pleasant monograph on Gossec. Then any Pre-Raphaelites (if such there be left) in sacred music might do worse than gravely consider the chapter on Signor Rossini's "Stabat," though it will hit them in the teeth by its declaration (in which we heartily share), that orthodox Church Art has no elect century,—that the Acanthus is no more essentially a Pagan flower than the *Herba benedicta* is a Christian one,—and that the unalterable nature of symbols is to none more perilous than to those attempting to fix it,—forgetting the while how many of the Christian symbols were merely wrested from Paganism, to be put to the uses of the newer and more generous creed.—But enough in regard to this agreeable volume, which should raise its writer far above such contempt as fitly hangs over the tombs of the Triflers.

*The Italian Campaigns of General Bonaparte in 1796-97 and 1800.* By George Hooper. With a Map. (Smith, Elder & Co.)—The Peace has somewhat blighted the prospects of book-makers compiling *à propos* of the late war. The supply of such commodities will slacken from this moment, we may presume. Here, however, is a volume not at all of an ephemeral character. It is another proof—if another be wanted—that civilians can write admirably on military matters. Mr. Hooper, without any parade of strategic science, renders it evident that he has not been "getting up" his subject in a hurry, or with a special object. The story of the Bonaparte campaigns in Italy is told at once lightly, firmly, and pleasantly. The latest and best authorities, the Bonaparte correspondence in particular, appear to have been carefully and intelligently consulted. The result is a very readable and useful little volume.

*The Latter Days of Jerusalem and Rome, as Revealed in the Apocalypse.* By Dominic M'Causland, LL.D. (Bentley.)—An elaborate view of prophecy. Passing events in Italy supply the author with a part of his basis. He remarks, in one of his preliminary chapters, on the actual state and future prospects of the Jewish race, the history of which, of course, furnishes a main proportion of the argument. The two successive dispensations are considered at large, and Dr. M'Causland proceeds to set forth his Millennial ideas and to open up his perspective of the New Jerusalem. Such a work lies beyond the range of literary criticism.

*The Monarchs of Modern History; or, Contemporaneous Sovereigns at a Glance. From the Fall of Rome to the Present Time.* By E. M. Newman. (Shaw.)—We have here a veritable Book of Kings. The chapters are galaxies of crown jewels. Mr. Newman has sought to trace, for the use of teachers, pupils and elementary readers generally, the history of the world from the subversion of the Roman Empire to our own times, and, to accomplish this purpose, has woven the narrative upon a series of imperial and royal biographies, succinct but neatly executed. This, to be sure, is but the skeleton of history, but so far as the compiler's intention went, it has been carried out.

*Five Years' Residence in New Zealand; or, Observations on Colonization.* By Francis Fuller. (Williams & Norgate.)—Mr. Fuller's work is of a discursive character, containing little narrative and less description. Its author, formerly a Captain in the 59th Regiment, has resided in the New Zealand province of Canterbury, which regards itself as the sun of that particular colonial system in the Pacific. His object seems to be, above all, to induce an emigration of "gentlemen," and those "who delight in rural affairs," for "hundreds of their race have settled there." The members of decayed or broken families, and persons brought up in ease and opulence, without knowledge of the trades or professions, who have been compelled to embark in speculative enterprise, have furnished recruits to the Upper Ten Thousand in Canterbury; but the majority is composed of individuals accustomed to commercial or manufacturing operations. Mr. Fuller proposes, therefore, steering clear of the paths trodden by previous writers, to explain the New Zealand colonial system in its principles and working details, more especially in so far as employers of labour are concerned. Beyond this, he treats of the methods by which industry of the humbler kinds may prosper,—gives an account of the trading methods in vogue,—and sketches his view of the future. There is much in the volume that will be found fresh and instructive, even to readers with a library of colonial literature on their shelves. Mr. Fuller deals, at starting, with the influence of religious differences on the population of New Zealand, and then meets the inquiry, not yet answered to the satisfaction even of all intelligent minds, whether to become a colonist involves any forfeiture of social position? This matter is very intelligently handled. In another chapter, he writes, in an equally practical sense, on the investment of small capitals; and, at the close, presents a retrospect of New Zealand politics. We have been considerably interested by Mr. Fuller's summing up of his five years' observation and experience.

Of lectures, addresses, and learned papers on our table, we notice *An Essay on English Orthography, with a Consideration of the Schemes which have been suggested for its Improvement by the Adoption of a System of Phonetic Spelling*, by J. Kerr (Black);—*A Sketch of the Comparative Beauties of the French and Spanish Languages*, by Manuel Martinez de Morentin (Tribner);—a lecture, by Mr. Carpenter, *On the History of Sanitary Progress in Croydon* (Gray);—Remarks on Coinage, by "Jacia" (Simpkin);—a paper, by Major Leigh, *On Pets, dedicated to all who do not spell Pets—Pests* (Longman);—Report, by Capt. Ryder, *On Navigation Schools* (Spottiswoode);—*A Letter to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in Notice of, and in Observations upon, the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Endowments, Funds, and actual Condition of all Schools endowed for the Purposes of Education in Ireland*, by the Rev. T. Kettlewell. —To these we may add the following miscellaneous publications:—*The St. George's Hospital Medical Staff, considered with Reference to the Consequences of the Prevailing Mode of determining Hospital Elections*, by Mr. E. Lee (Churchill);—*On the Prevention of Consumption by the Use of the Hypophosphites*, by Dr. Churchill (Churchill);—*What is Homoeopathy? and is there any, and what Amount of Truth in it?* by Dr. Conquest (Longman);—Part I. of *The Beautiful Balia* [*La Bella Balia*]; a Tale in French, by the Countess Marie Montemerli (Jeffer);—*The Aerostatic Magazine for 1859*, edited by Mr. Coxwell,—and, lastly, we have the first, second, and

third portions of Part III., and the fourth portion of Part IV., of the *Catalogue of Books recently added to the Public Library, Melbourne* (Guillaume).—We notice, among recent publications of a religious nature, Mr. Wharton's *Treatise on Theism and on the Modern Scientific Theories* (Tribner);—*The Lily of Tiflis: a Sketch from Georgian Church History*, being No. IV. of "Historical Tales" (Parker);—Mr. J. Crane's new version of *The Book of Psalms* (Simpkin);—*The Words she wrote; or, the Blood-Stained Leaf: a True Story of Two Highlanders at Lucknow* (Wertheim);—*Christianizing India: What, How, and by Whom*, by a Christian Minister (Simpkin);—and *Beware of the Mass! Lectures on the False Doctrines of the Romish Altar*, by the Rev. J. A. J. Nicholson (Wertheim).

## LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Ahn's Poetry of Germany, 6s. 3s. 4s. 5s. 6s. 7s. 8s. 9s. 10s. 11s. 12s. 13s. 14s. 15s. 16s. 17s. 18s. 19s. 20s. 21s. 22s. 23s. 24s. 25s. 26s. 27s. 28s. 29s. 30s. 31s. 32s. 33s. 34s. 35s. 36s. 37s. 38s. 39s. 40s. 41s. 42s. 43s. 44s. 45s. 46s. 47s. 48s. 49s. 50s. 51s. 52s. 53s. 54s. 55s. 56s. 57s. 58s. 59s. 60s. 61s. 62s. 63s. 64s. 65s. 66s. 67s. 68s. 69s. 70s. 71s. 72s. 73s. 74s. 75s. 76s. 77s. 78s. 79s. 80s. 81s. 82s. 83s. 84s. 85s. 86s. 87s. 88s. 89s. 90s. 91s. 92s. 93s. 94s. 95s. 96s. 97s. 98s. 99s. 100s. 101s. 102s. 103s. 104s. 105s. 106s. 107s. 108s. 109s. 110s. 111s. 112s. 113s. 114s. 115s. 116s. 117s. 118s. 119s. 120s. 121s. 122s. 123s. 124s. 125s. 126s. 127s. 128s. 129s. 130s. 131s. 132s. 133s. 134s. 135s. 136s. 137s. 138s. 139s. 140s. 141s. 142s. 143s. 144s. 145s. 146s. 147s. 148s. 149s. 150s. 151s. 152s. 153s. 154s. 155s. 156s. 157s. 158s. 159s. 160s. 161s. 162s. 163s. 164s. 165s. 166s. 167s. 168s. 169s. 170s. 171s. 172s. 173s. 174s. 175s. 176s. 177s. 178s. 179s. 180s. 181s. 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ture of bricks, so singular in its architecture that probably the idea occurs to him, that the architect who planned it took the Tower of Babel as a prototype, intending to represent it at Bangkok on a reduced scale. It met, like that pile, a similar fate, for it is "rotten at the foundation."

The ambitious design of the builder was abandoned before the work had been completed, and the parts previously erected have already begun to decay; the lower walls upon which the superstructure rests sink into the alluvial soil.

This Wat or Buddhist temple bears the name of Seked. The grounds which appertain to it occupy a very extensive space, and are divided by a canal into two parts, the more northern of which contains the ruin just spoken of. Here a number of comfortable houses for the priests or Talapoins have been erected parallel to the canal; the grounds are laid out according to Siamese taste, with salas or bowers, niches, grottoes and rockwork; the smaller canals or trenches are crossed by high-backed bridges, according to China fashion;—there are shady trees and flowering bushes enough. The whole bears the appearance that the Talapoins or Buddhist monks keep the northern part of Seked in excellent order.

A large bridge leads from here across a broad canal to its southern part; but how different is the aspect that now presents itself to the visitor! The temples within that space are small; no flowers or shrubbery surround them—only rank grass. The attention is attracted by a number of structures, placed in a line within a regular distance, each, perhaps, 25 or 30 feet high; which I can only compare to gigantic *flambeaux*, bringing to the mind scenes connected with funeral rites. Desolation, it seems, is the principal feature which stamps this division of Wat Seked.

Following the path, constructed of bricks, and raised above the influence of the highest tides, a person ignorant of the purport to which Seked is dedicated, will, perhaps, be astonished to notice on the sides of the pathway rags, heaps of cotton, apparently the residue of pillow-cases and mattresses; pieces of thin board, showing vestiges of their having been pasted over with gilded or silvered paper, or ornamented with tinsel.

In some of the salas (open buildings, the roofs of which rest upon pillars) he observes structures which, in appearance, I can only compare to huge trays. They are partly filled with a clayey earth, in the middle of which a smouldering fire attracts attention. Curiosity draws the visitor nearer, notwithstanding the peculiar odour which arises from the cinders, and he finds that what is consuming consists of the remains of a fellow creature. Cremation has here taken place, and he becomes now aware that the clothes in rags and tinselled boards are remnants of funeral rites.

Burning the dead is a practice of considerable antiquity, being considered in ages past as a sacred rite. I refer the student of ancient lore to the obsequies of Hector, Patroclus, Achilles, and Remus. The Celts, Teutonians, the Sarmatians, Gauls, Swedes, and Norwegians, followed a similar custom. Turning from the Old World to the great Western Continent, I myself saw, amongst the wild tribes of Indians in Guiana, the custom of placing their dead upon a funeral pile. Their mortal remains having been consumed, the survivors collect the ashes, which are kept sacred, and should their relatives remove from their former abode, those ashes are taken away with them to the new dwelling-place as a sacred relic.

The mode of burning the dead amongst such nations as have adopted cremation is various. The ceremonies followed by the Siamese, when standing and wealth permit it, is, to embalm the body after the vital spark has fled, and to keep it in a mortuary apartment for eight or ten months.

When the funeral rites are to take place, the remains of the departed are placed in a metal urn, which is set on the funeral pile or pyre, surrounded by the driest wood, by gums and oily substances. Should it happen that the rites refer to royal princes or nobles of the highest distinction, the kings (or sometimes only the first king) are present, and set fire to the pyre from opposite sides. The ashes, as the remains have been burnt in a metal

urn, are free from admixture of any foreign substance. They are carefully preserved or buried under a temple, or under a pyramidal structure, erected for that purpose.

I may here as well observe, that in Siam, white is the colour of mourning, and that, out of respect to the departed, all those who served him in his household have their heads shorn of all hair. The Kalnhom, or Prime Minister, as well as the Phraklan, or Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the death of the Somdet, their uncle, who held next to the two kings the highest dignity in the country, were simply dressed in white cotton stuff, without having their heads shorn; for as ministers of the Crown, and as such servants to the kings, they could only have adopted that custom had one of their majesties departed this life.

To return, however, after these remarks, to my visit of Wat Seked: I followed, from the sala, the paved road in the direction of two oblong spaces, each about 100 feet in length, surrounded by walls. I noticed on my right a high scaffolding, on which were perched a number of disgusting-looking vultures. Redoubling my steps to the inclosure in front of me, I entered through the low doorway, and, horror-struck, speedily retired at the sight of a number of these carrion birds regaling themselves on the dead body of a human being.

It must not be thought that I have overdrawn the picture; I have merely described what I saw on my first visit to Wat Seked.

Cremation, as I have already observed, is the usual method by which "ashes are brought to ashes, dust to dust" after the vital spark has fled from man. This is, however, a rite which the rich can only resort to; the poorer classes cannot pay the expenses connected with it, and have to place their dead under the ground, or carry the corpse to Wat Seked, throwing it within the walled inclosures, where the ravenous vultures are in attendance to do their office. I visited Wat Seked again: to be particular, it was on the 11th of January last. On landing, I noticed the greatest activity;—there, temporary temples were being erected; here, places for the representation of theatricals constructed. Scene-painters were occupied, by means of buckets full of colours, to represent, according to their skill, imitations of Nature in her swelling forests, in rocky cliffs, her river scenes and stormy oceans. What is the reason of all this bustle? was, of course, a question which I addressed to those from whom I thought I might receive information. I was told, in answer, that the cremation of the high and noble lady of Phra Nai Sarapiet, the principal wife of the second ambassador in the late Siamese embassy to England, was to take place in a few days, she having died some months ago. I passed the scene where so much life was preparing to celebrate death, and directed my steps to the walled inclosures. Those representatives of the harpies of old, the vultures, were perched upon the scaffolding which I have previously described; their heads were drawn in within the ruffles of feathers, their wings sunk heavily down, nearly to their feet. They showed no motion on my passing near them; it was evident they had satiated themselves. I entered through the low doorway within the precincts of the largest of the two enclosures; my first glance noticed two human skulls, stuck upon poles of bamboo, their headless trunks lying in the pool of water, which, after severe rains, is formed in the middle of this dismal place. The vultures had already done their business. One of the skulls was evidently that of a man of mature age, so peculiarly formed that I should recognize it again amongst a heap of hundreds; the other was that of a young female. Both had full set teeth: there was not one wanting in the two jaws. Who were they? why were their heads cut off, their trunks thrown into the pool?

The following is their history, as far as I ascertained it from a source that I could rely upon. The skull of the man was that of a priest,—that of the female, his illicit love, a young Siamese woman in attendance at the palace of the first king. One of the strictest rules of Buddhism directs that the Talapoin, or priest, shall observe chastity. It is a sin to sit on the same mat with a woman, or to receive anything, except food, as a charity, from

her hand. To speak to a woman in a secret place is a sin,—to cough or sneeze, in order to win the notice of a group of girls seated, is a sin,—even to dream of a woman is a sin. Notwithstanding these strict rules, Phra Sang, a priest of Wat Seked, loved Ma-Op-Chui, who, although in the service at the palace, had nevertheless permission to leave it occasionally for the purpose, as she asserted, of seeing her parents, instead of which she hastened to her lover at Wat Seked. On one occasion when the lovers met at the priest's cell, a step was heard approaching,—Phra Sang thought that it was one of his colleagues coming to visit him. A room adjoining contained in large cases the sacred books of the Buddhist religion, and other works and writings forming the library of the Wat,—and, in order to hide the fair delinquent during the unwelcome visit, he secreted her in one of the huge cases. The person approaching was unfortunately a superior priest of the Wat, coming in search of a volume, which was in the case that now contained another object besides the book he desired to consult,—namely, Ma-Op-Chui. The crime and sacrilege committed was blazed immediately all over the Wat; the delinquents were seized and delivered over to the authorities. The culprits were sentenced to suffer according to the strictest interpretation of the law; they were to be decapitated, their heads to be stuck upon poles, their carcasses to become the prey of vultures. The King would hear of no appeal; but they thwarted their stern judges in a material point, for their heads were cut off only after their death. Although imprisoned in separate dungeons, both managed to procure poison,—and when the moment arrived that they were to be led to execution, the headman found two lifeless corpses to exercise his skill upon; still their heads were cut off and stuck upon poles, their bodies thrown into the pool as food for the vultures.

I returned to the dismal spot again, about a fortnight later, and found only the head of the female lying on the ground at the foot of the pole. On inquiry, I was told that the relations of Phra Sang had received permission from the King to remove the head and other parts of the skeleton of the priest, in order to burn these remains. Ma-Op-Chui had no powerful relations to effect such an object, hence her skull remained at Wat Seked. Could I have managed it without discovery, I would have carried it away with me.

I have still to relate another visit to that Wat, namely, to witness the cremation of the lady of Phra Nai Sarapiet, for which ceremony weeks of previous preparation had been made. The temple erected for that purpose was in the style of Egyptian architecture, the interior painted black, with golden embellishments. Four columns, circular, without pilasters, surrounded the highly ornamented catafalque, which in an urn that rose from the middle, contained the remains of the high personage. The walls of the temple were covered with coloured lamps, with reflectors of convex lenses behind to multiply the light that fell upon them. Outside of the temple, resting against its walls, were numerous stalls, upon which were exhibited the greatest medley of objects of *virtù*, curiosities, lustres, chandeliers, tiny ornaments, and toys, the figures of some of the latter set in motion by means of springs and clockwork;—enough, it was a collection worthy of any bazaar or arcade in a fashionable European town. It is a strange custom which directs these exhibitions as a part of the funeral rites of a rich or distinguished person, for none of these articles, so curiously brought together, were for sale. The temple was surrounded by niches, in which priests were chanting dirges; others, stretched out "their whole length," rested from the great fatigue of doing nothing.

The space between the temple and niches, or resting-places of the attending priests, was rather narrow; it was thronged with people led by duty or curiosity; but infinitely more so were the places where theatrical representations took place, where the buffoon and mime had their sway. There were several exhibitions of that description; however, the Chinese play-actors seemed the most patronized by the throng; their ranting voices, and noisy music of conch, cymbals, and drums, exercise the greatest attraction; even the dancing girls, young

and pretty comparative the principle erected. I rich cloths to the balc of the disti lady-soldie of black vo of the first their arm women ar Majesty t her, were and as ganza at the ballet sion, and when the and I ha played o which I effect w afterwar of horse tigers ar pyrotech or were heard, v monster ings. unearthe greater which b wheels, verse t gest w lament departe

A v cities noon swoop hopes, a ques wheth real s storm, head, emple Of tion l accus Turin for g descr cause only stran Flor appo popu not On t shad less scar was pre this was the the beg les a no wa th It ga ha an in

and pretty as some of their number were, had comparatively but few admirers. Opposite to the principal theatre a large balcony had been erected. It was festooned and embellished with rich cloths and hangings; the steps and access to the balcony were confined to the guardship of the distinguished corps of Siamese Amazons, the lady-soldiers being dressed on this occasion in tunics of black velvet, ornamented with gold. A cordon of the first King's troops surrounded the balcony, their arms piled up. The presence of the warlike women and the King's soldiers proved that His Majesty and his Queen - Consort, as he styles her, were in the balcony. The crowd increased, and as I could not understand the *extravaganza* at the Chinese theatre, and was tired of the ballet, I resolved to extend my boat excursion, and to return to Wat Seked in the evening, when the temple would be illuminated. I did so, and I have to note that the taste which was displayed on that occasion surpassed even the scene which I witnessed at Soudet's cremation. The effect was most striking. Fireworks followed afterwards: there were representations of dragons, of horses of shape unknown in nature, lions and tigers and other monsters, which by means of the pyrotechnic art, were sent whirling through the air, or were hurled through space by means of wires and ropes, while at the same time sounds were heard, which might be compared to the howling of monsters, intermixed with lamentations and wailings. These sounds, which have something quite unearthly, are produced by tubes of bamboo of greater or smaller length, perforated with holes, which being attached to the rockets, and catherine-wheels, cause, by the velocity with which they traverse the air, such sounds as would probably suggest what Milton imagined, when he speaks of the lamentations, the moaning and wailing of souls departed, "not in peace."

ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGK.

Florence, July 17.

A very casual glimpse of any one of the capital cities of Northern Italy on the blazing July afternoon when the sudden proclamation of Peace swooped down upon them at the height of their hopes, would have decided the question, if it be yet a question to the lookers-on from beyond the Alps, whether the Italian national movement has been a real spontaneous living fact, or a mere surface storm, got up by a powerful party for so much a head, to work out the ambitious purposes of their employers.

Of Milan, whose rough demonstrative population broke out on that occasion into wild and bitter accusations of treachery in high quarters,—of Turin, where the shops were instantly closed as if for general mourning, and where the impression is described to have been far more painful than that caused by the fatal battle of Novara in 1849, I can only speak by hearsay. But I can testify to the strange and deep pathos of what I saw that day in Florence, the expression of a bitter national disappointment, cutting to the very quick of the popular heart in every class of society,—a sight not easily to be described or forgotten.

On the morning of the 13th, as I observed before, on the battle-day of Magenta, there seemed to be shadows of tidings in the air, and men were restless, and anxiously walked hither and thither, they scarce knew why. But in the forenoon a bulletin was put up, in which the conditions of the incomprehensible armistice were minutely regulated, and this intelligence was as eagerly swallowed as ever was sedative potion by a restless fever patient, though not a few remarked gloomily that it bore the far-off date of the 8th of July. About 2 o'clock began a rumour of bad news half known, which in less than an hour had taken bodily shape, for then a second bulletin was posted on the walls, announcing that peace was concluded; that Venice was to remain under the sceptre of Austria; and that the Pope was to be Honorary President of the Italian Confederation! Round these bulletins gathered eager crowds, reading them with clenched hands and knitted brows; and ten minutes later, any one would have sought the ill-omened papers in vain, for the people, with that repugnance to

give up its mind to too terrible a belief, which is seen so often in private and personal misfortune, tore down the bills wherever they had been posted, declaring the tidings they contained to be utterly false and treacherous inventions; and in the course of the day, growing blindly obstinate in disbelief, they burned the whole edition of that day's *Monitore*, which contained a repetition of the obnoxious bulletin, and committed no small injury on the types at the newspaper office.

During the afternoon the ill-omened ferment went on ever increasing. The Codini at first either were, or feigned to be, as ill pleased as the Liberals; perhaps they fancied that in the troublous weather ahead their own chances of safety were far from reassuring. There was a pale gloom on the face of every man, as if the enemy were battering at the gates; and women and young girls hurried on their way with eyes bent down, muttering, "*Madonna Santa! Povera Italia!*" "*Poveri noi!*"—as though the pestilence had broken out among them. As the hours went, and no contradiction came of the evil news, the Codini began to take courage from the general despondency, and sedulously tacked long strings of ugly consequences to the published facts. They declared that the French Emperor and the King of Sardinia had quarrelled beyond hope of reconciliation; that the Emperor had no sooner concluded the peace than he fled off, like a thief, to Paris, never stopping for rest or food by the way for fear of knife or bullet, but flinging himself, like a hunted madman, on board the *Hortense* at Genoa, to get out of Italy with all speed. They informed the Florentines that their excellent Grand-Duke was to return to his beloved capital in the first days of September, backed up by a most merciful amnesty, and—6,000 French *braves*. And they added, that meanwhile a few thousand *contadini*, belonging to the right thinking part of the community, would ere long march into Florence to set matters straight, and prepare the way for the promised millennium. Of all these false reports so zealously circulated, the one which cut the deepest was that of the Emperor's treachery to Italy; and the feeling of the great mass of the people may be embodied in the dramatic exclamation of a poor uneducated servant girl, who, on hearing the report that day, rushed breathless into her mistress's room, with clasped hands and scared eyes, exclaiming, "*Mio Dio! egli ci ha traditi!*" (My God! he has betrayed us!) never dreaming that the person she meant could be mistaken.

That evening the Government put forth a proclamation declaring their sympathy with the popular sorrow, and thereby confirming its cause; but assuring the citizens that messengers should immediately start for Turin, to learn the true state of things, and that on the morrow the Council should assemble, and appeal to Victor Emmanuel in the name of Tuscany. The proclamation closed with these consolatory words,—"*Tuscany shall not be replaced against her will and her rights under the yoke and influence of Austria.*"

In the course of that evening, too, a large body of respectable *popolani* (a fraction, no doubt, of the horrible *sans-culotte* mob of Florence so vividly conjured up by Lord Normanby in his highly imaginative description of our revolution) went to the Government, and urged them to permit the immediate organization of a civic guard for the protection of the city in case the threatened Codino invasion should take place, and offering their personal guarantee for those to whom arms should be entrusted for the purpose. Their request was granted, and several hundreds of citizens went next morning to the fortress to receive muskets, and have since patrolled the town watchfully from dusk till daylight.

The next day and the next a lurid shadow rested upon our fine old streets and squares, no tidings arrived from Turin to smooth away the public discontent, and the air was rife as ever with uncanny rumours. Then might be seen the first grip which the new germ of nationality has taken on the Tuscan people's heart, by the mingled expressions poured forth on all sides of apprehension for their own political future, of passionate regret for gallant, long-oppressed Venice to be left a bleeding hostage in the two-headed eagle's claws, and of

wonder and disgust at the idea of the Pope, while the words of excommunication against Piedmont and the Romagna are yet hot on his lips, and his hands yet full of rewards and honours for the perpetrators of the hideous massacre of Perugia, being raised to the highest place in the Confederation of Italy.

In truth, the selfishness of the popular feeling was even more moving than had been the despairing fall of its high hopes three days before. All classes felt in common. Among the groups of sturdy, half-clothed masons and carpenters going to their work, or resting at noon, stretched at full length in the shade, chatting over their frugal dinner of a huge hunch of bread and a handful of plums or big black cherries, one caught up *en passant* such phrases as the following in their eloquent vernacular of the *Mercato Vecchio*,—"E' non vuol stare ti dico, e' l'è un' iniquità numero uno"—(The thing can't stand, I tell you, it's a first-rate iniquity), meaning the peace; or, "*Povera disgraziata! gnene tocca sempre a lei!*"—(Poor unfortunate one! she is sure to have the worst of it), alluding to Venice, as if the once mighty Sea-Queen were in truth a suffering friend in unmerited distress. Sometimes, too, the Holy Father came in for his share of the conversation, and was unanimously apostrophized as "*Pezzo di birbante! gnene dare' io vè! la Presidenza, cor' e' su' assasino dell' Antonelli!*"—(A great rascal! with his ruffian Antonelli! I'd give him the Presidency!)

On Saturday morning the clouds at last began to draw off a little. Official reports grew brighter. The Emperor, instead of flying to Paris like a malefactor, had entered Turin with Victor Emmanuel the evening before in all good fellowship. The messengers despatched to Turin by the Government had sent back re-assuring words respecting the probable liberty which would be granted to Tuscany to choose her own sovereign, and her possible annexation to Piedmont. The *Contadini* had preferred staying quietly at home, or the country priests and landlords had not considered them sufficiently reliable to send into Florence to "set matters straight." No one seemed satisfied with the proposed peace, nor by any means sure of its terms. Better still, England (God bless her for it!) declared that she would only agree to the entire independence of Italy. Who could tell, said the Florentines, whether a Congress would assemble, and if it did, whether Venice would be sacrificed? Nay, a worthy gossip of my own, a shrewd and jovial master carpenter, bade me be comforted, for things were sure to go right, seeing that a friend of his, a *sergent-major*, had assured him that the fighting would certainly begin again the first thing on the morning of the 16th of August, when the Armistice should have expired! Not the least comfortable of the favourable tidings of Saturday was the marching on Rimini of General Mezzacapo's troops, Piedmontese and Romagnoli, and the skirmish with the Papal mercenaries to the discomfiture of the latter.

So all these hopes, surmises, and probabilities have made Florence almost herself again. As in the headlong concluding fugue, which winds up the nursery tale of the old lady "who lived in a vinegar bottle," wherein it is recorded that after many mischances and disappointments, "The dog began to worry the cat, the cat began to catch the rat, the rat began," and on through a long list of interesting casualties to a prosperous ending,—so our public matters seem tending forwards straight and steadily. The civic patrols are established, the National Guard is being enrolled, the electoral laws are being refurbished, the Constituent Assembly (to the horror of the Codini) is going to be convoked. And their vote we trust may save us from "*L'Austria e gli Austriaci*" (Austria and Austria's hangers-on). Needful reforms, ecclesiastical and other, are planning, and messengers are speeding to Paris and London to plead little Tuscany's cause in the high places of diplomacy, that veiled Isis who can implacably and impassably sign away our birthright at her pleasure. Meanwhile, the pigtailed fraternity look downcast, complaining of the "*afa*," or oppressive heat, and many retire to their villas, where burnt-up grass and cicala-haunted cypresses best suit their desponding



mood. The consequences of the events of the last few days, perilous as they at first seemed to the national cause, go far to convince the most unwilling eyes that Italy is beginning to be united by a stronger tie of union than ever was framed by red tape and sealing-wax, and which bayonets and protocols cannot put asunder.

I was lately in company with an ancient Codino noble, one of the few Florentine notables who yet march, taper in hand, in the yearly procession of the Corpus Domini, and give orders to their Contadini to resist with scythes and pitchforks any attempt to levy taxes for the war. The venerable *Illustrissimo* was denouncing the fatal tendencies of some modern school to which a favourite servant of his had sent his children, instead of leaving them under the wise, priestly teaching of the *Scuole pie*. Turning to me with a look of mingled horror and disgust, he exclaimed, "What do you think they teach in those places? They teach (lowering his voice to conspiracy pitch)—they teach the children to become.....'Amici della patria!'" (friends of their country)—just as if he had said, they teach poisoning or flaying alive on improved principles. And this new lesson, which Italy has lately learnt, and is still eagerly studying, to the extinction of petty municipal jealousies and studiously fomented feuds of state against state—this immense revolution in the popular heart of Italy makes the possible continuance of the captivity of Venice for the nonce more endurable, and the Pope's honorary Presidency (which it is doubtful whether he will accept) less like a cruel mockery. For the living principle will never cease to work till it have driven out the remnants of the old tyranny, as surely as the healthy, living flesh drives out the splinters of the unskillfully removed arrow-head which has pierced and angered it. TH. T.

#### PICTURE GALLERIES BY GASLIGHT.

THE following Report of the Commission appointed to consider the subject of lighting picture galleries by gas was presented to the House of Commons on the 21st inst. :—

"South Kensington, July 20.

"The Commission, consisting of Profs. Faraday, Hofmann, and Tyndall, Mr. R. Redgrave, R.A., and Captain Fowke, R.E.,—appointed for the purpose of reporting to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council on Education on the lighting of picture galleries by gas, and on any precautions (if necessary) against the escape of gas, and the products of its combustion,—having met at various times and considered the subject referred to them, now make the following Report :—

"There is nothing innate in coal gas which renders its application to the illumination of picture galleries objectionable. Its light, though not so white as that of the sun, is equally harmless; its radiant heat may be rendered innocuous by placing a sufficient distance between the gas jets and the pictures, while the heat of combustion may be rendered eminently serviceable in promoting ventilation.

"Coal gas may be free from sulphuretted hydrogen compounds, and in London is so at the present time; it then has little or no direct action on pictures. But it has not as yet been cleansed from sulphide of carbon, which, on combustion, yields sulphurous acid gas, capable of producing 22½ grains of sulphuric acid per 100 cubic feet of present London coal gas. [Hofmann.] It is not safe to permit this product of the combustion to come in contact with pictures, painted either in oil or water colours; and the Commission are emphatically of opinion that in every system of permanent gas-lighting for picture or sculpture galleries provision should be made for the effectual exclusion or withdrawal of the products of combustion from the chambers containing the works of Art.

"The Commission have examined the Sheepshanks Gallery as an experimental attempt to light pictures with gas, and are of opinion that the process there carried out fulfils the condition of effectually illuminating the pictures and at the same time removing the products of combustion. According to the indications of the thermometer required and obtained, it does this in harmony with, and in aid of, the ventilation, and does not

make a difference of more than one degree Fahrenheit at the parts where the pictures are placed, between the temperatures, before and after the gas is lighted.

"Certain colour-tests, consisting of surfaces covered with white lead, or with vegetable and mineral colours (especially the more fugitive ones), and in which also boiled linseed oil, magylyp, and copal varnish were employed as vehicles, had been prepared, and were, when dry, covered one-fourth with mastic varnish, one-fourth with glass, one-fourth with both mastic varnish and glass, and one-fourth left uncovered. Sixteen of these have been placed for nearly two years in different situations, in some of which gas has been used, in others not. They give no indications respecting the action of coal gas (except injury from heat in one placed purposely very near to and above the gas-burners), but seven of them show signs of chemical change in the whites, due to either a town atmosphere or want of ventilation. The most injured is that from the National Gallery, Charing Cross, and the next is from a country privy; the third, much less changed, is from the House of Commons; the fourth is from the Barber Surgeons' Hall; the fifth from the Bridgewater Gallery; the sixth from the Royal Society's rooms at Burlington House; the seventh from the British Museum.

"The remaining tests, hung in—1. Sheepshanks' Gallery, South Kensington; 2. Secretary's room at South Kensington, where no gas is used; 3. Mr. Henry Drummond's drawing-room at Albury Park, Surrey; 4. Sealed up and kept in a closet in the Secretary's room at South Kensington; 5. Lambeth Palace, vestibule of the staircase; 6. British Institution, picture gallery; 7. Windsor Castle, room with a north aspect without gas; 8. Mr. Thomas Baring's picture gallery, 41, Upper Grosvenor Street, frequently lit with gas, present no observable change in this respect.

"Though apart from the especial subject submitted to the Commission, the members cannot resist a recommendation that this kind of trial, which is especially a painter's experiment, should be continued for a longer period, and, indeed, be carried out on a more extensive scale.

"The Commission think it right to state that they were unanimous on all the points to which their attention had been called, or which are referred to in this Report.

"M. FARADAY,

"A. W. HOFMANN,

"JOHN TYNDALL,

"RICH. REDGRAVE,

"FRANCIS FOWKE, Captain, R.E."

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

OUR readers will be glad to hear once more from their old friend Sir Robert Schomburgk. As his letter in another column shows, he is now at Bangkok in Siam, that marvellous land in which a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society is King and a White Elephant is God. Sickness (as well as official duty), we grieve to hear, has hitherto prevented Sir Robert from sending his impressions of Siamese society and scenery to Europe; but we may hope, now that he has recovered his strength, to hear from Bangkok and other localities in Siam whenever our philosophical traveller finds matter to communicate.

A few days ago we saw the range and accuracy of the new Armstrong gun tested in a way which demands a note. Cooling ourselves on the Essex coast, near the Artillery practising ground, we are asked to see the firing, and while this goes slowly and solemnly on, one of the party spies a flight of geese far out to sea. "There, they light on yon sand-bank." Up go a dozen glasses. Yes: there they flicker in the sun, grey and white, mere specks in the blue sea air. Load the gun—load at the breach—poise—touch—bang! Boat off there to the sands! A signal tells the tale. The shot has struck the swarm—a life is taken from the flight—and this at six miles seven furlongs from the mouth of the gun! A shot as well aimed from Primrose Hill should hit the ball on Greenwich Observatory; or, if fired from Richmond Park, should bring down a rider in Rotten Row. Here

is a fact worth the attention of those Austrian engineers who have just come to London to study our new Artillery, and learn how to defend Verona against the Frank.

Among the many attractions preparing for the Aberdeen Meeting of the British Association will be a department of Photography. The local Committee invite the co-operation of photographers of all countries, in an attempt to exhibit the present state of the art in its choicest specimens. The only limitation is the exclusion of paint. In black and white, touched or untouched, all works of merit will be received.

Mr. Gladstone, in passing the estimates for the British Museum, held out a hope that the crowding and confusion of that establishment are about to cease. He admitted the principle of a separation of its contents—books in one place, bones in another, and so forth; an admission which the House of Commons applauded, and about which, we trust, there need be no further discussion.

The meeting of the members of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, originally settled for the 27th instant at Harrow, is postponed until Thursday, the 6th of October next, at the same place.

In June 1857 we announced that authority had been given by the Lords of the Treasury to prepare a new stamp for a threepenny rate of postage. This stamp has been prepared, and may now be obtained at Somerset House. Booksellers, newspaper agents and others may see a specimen at the *Athenæum* office.

The Civil List Pensions for the past year show little improvement in the spirit of their distribution; though we have not this July to announce that half the national dole awarded to genius and learning has been given for services in the army or in the Court. The distribution falls in this way:—literature, 400*l.*; science, 325*l.*; arms, 275*l.*; art, 100*l.*; nondescript, 75*l.*; total, 1,200*l.* We subjoin the official details:—Mrs. Harriet Lucas Willoughby, 150*l.*, in consideration of the gallant conduct of her son, the late Lieutenant Willoughby, in blowing up the magazine at Delhi. Mrs. Ann Skinner, 50*l.*, in consideration of her having lost three sons in the service of their country. Edwin Atherstone, 75*l.*, in consideration of his merits. Mrs. Susanna Bartlett, 75*l.*, in consideration of the literary merits of her husband, the late William Henry Bartlett. James Bowman Lindsay, 100*l.*, in consideration of his scientific attainments. Mrs. Amelia Gresley Ball, 100*l.*, in consideration of the services of her husband, the late Dr. Ball, the naturalist. Mrs. Cornelia Hogan, 100*l.*, in consideration of the merits of her late husband, Mr. John Hogan, as a sculptor. Alice, Constance and Janet Archer, 50*l.*, in consideration of the valuable contributions of their late father to the science of photography. Charles Duke Yonge, 75*l.*, in consideration of his literary merits. W. Desborough Cooley, 100*l.*, in consideration of his literary services and discoveries in Central Africa. John Bolton Rogerson, 50*l.*, in consideration of his literary merits and destitute condition. Ann, Maria and Catherine Coppard, 75*l.*, in consideration of the services rendered to nautical science by their grandfather, Mr. T. Robertson. The Rev. John Hind, 100*l.*, in consideration of his literary services. Mary Stephens, Lauretta, Rachel, Sarah and Amy Tucker, 25*l.* (additional), daughters of the late Joseph Tucker, many years Surveyor of the Navy. Mrs. Frances Martha Agnes Simmons, 75*l.*, in consideration of the military and literary services of her husband, the late Capt. Simmons, and also of the eminent military services of her sons, two of whom lost their lives in action, and two of whom died from illness contracted in the execution of their duties.—This is a better show, certainly, than we have had to make for three or four years, even though it proceeds on no sort of system.

The death of W. R. Hamilton, formerly President of the Geographical Society, and more lately one of the Trustees of the British Museum, claims a brief note. Mr. Hamilton's great feat was the capture of the Rosetta Stone, now in Great Russell Street, from the French. He was likewise instrumental in recovering from the French, and restor-

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ing to Italy, the great pictures and statues which the Imperialists had conquered from the palaces and churches of that country. His work on Egypt, now forgotten, was of some importance in its day—at least, to the merely English scholar. It has long been replaced.

A paragraph which has lately been in circulation respecting the philological pursuits of Prince Lucien Buonaparte—a part of which stole into our columns last week—is erroneous in several particulars. It states that the Prince is now in Durham, translating the Song of Solomon into the dialect of Weardale, and that he intends to proceed afterwards to Yorkshire, to translate it into the dialect of Craven. The Prince has never translated any portion of the Scriptures into any English dialect. A few months ago he printed, at his expense, and presented to the British Museum and some other public libraries, 'The Song of Solomon, in the Dialect of Craven, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, from the authorized English Version, by Henry Anthony Littledale,' as well as a translation into the Westmoreland dialect, by the Rev. John Richardson, M.A., Head Master of Appleby School; into the Labourdin dialect of Basque, by Captain Duvoisin; into the Transylvanian dialect of German, by J. Seivert. The Prince, who is an ardent and learned philologist, has determined to procure and print, at his own expense, versions of the Scriptures, or portions of the Scriptures, in those languages or dialects of Europe in which no version has hitherto existed, for the purpose of placing on record, for the benefit of posterity, the actual state of language in our time. In some important cases he has announced his intention of printing versions of the whole Scriptures; in others, he is preparing versions of the Gospel of St. Matthew only; and in the case of others, provincial dialects, he has taken the Song of Solomon. That portion of the Bible, it is remarked by Seivert, in the preface to the Transylvanian version, is "not too long, and yet is something complete; and it affords opportunities of introducing provincial words which are not supplied by other books." It is singular that it should have been left to the Prince, not only to prosecute and patronize the study of the Celtic dialects of the British Islands, the Welsh, the Irish, the Gaelic and the Manx, but to elucidate and place on record the dialects of our English counties: a service for which England surely owes him thanks. It may be remarked, that he is by birth an Englishman, having first seen the light in Worcestershire, while his father resided here as a prisoner of war.

A very liberal recommendation, which was made by the authorities of Eton College to the Cambridge University Commissioners more than two years ago, to the effect that the sons of all British subjects, otherwise duly qualified, should be admissible as candidates for Eton Scholarships, has been adopted by the Commissioners, and has consequently become part of the Statutes of Eton College.

The great advantage of combination has seldom been made more apparent in scientific matters than by the recent publication, by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, of a catalogue of recorded earthquakes, from 1606 B.C. to A.D. 1850. The catalogue, which occupies a bulky volume, gives accounts, more or less full, of nearly 7,000 earthquakes, including their locality, direction, duration, and number of shocks, the phenomena connected with them, and the authorities from whence the accounts have been drawn. Many of the details are extremely curious, and all highly interesting. The catalogue is followed by a discussion of the results deducible from the observations, by Mr. Robert Mallet and Mr. John William Mallet.

An account has been recently laid by M. Foucault before the Paris Academy of Sciences, of a new reflecting telescope in the Imperial Observatory, the speculum of which is made of silvered glass. The mirror, which is forty centimetres in diameter, is said to be extremely brilliant, and of great reflecting excellence; and M. Foucault and his colleague, M. Chacornac, conceive, from the experiments and observations made with this telescope, that larger instruments of the same construction may be employed with great advantage.

struction may be employed with great advantage.

Last week the library of Rydal Mount was sold to the four winds. The attendance was thin and the prices were not high. Many of the books contained Wordsworth's autograph; some few, notes and inscriptions. But these additions made scarcely any difference in the market value of the works sold. In London better prices might have been secured. We notice some of the more interesting lots:—Description of the Persian Monarchy, now being the Oriental Indes; a relation of some Years' Travail begunne Anno 1626, by T. Herbert, 1634, 12l. 12s.—Recollections of a First Visit to the Alps in 1841, by T. N. Talfourd, with Autograph and Sonnet on the Reception of the Poet Wordsworth at Oxford, 15s.—Calvino, Joanne, Institutio Christiane Religionis, 8vo. calf, Geneva (autographs of "S. T. Coleridge," and "W. Wordsworth"), 1569, 1l. 4s.—Donne, John (Dr. in Divinity), LXXX Sermons Preached by that Learned and Reverend Divine in the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's, London, 1640. Autograph, "William Wordsworth, bought at Ashby de la Zouche, 1809," 1l.—Purchas his Pilgrimage; or, Relations of the World and the Religions observed in all Places Discovered from the Creation to this Present. The third edition, 1617, 1l. 3s.—Religio Medici, with Observations, by Sir Kenelm Digby, 8vo. 1669 (autograph "William Wordsworth, given to him by Charles Lamb"), and three others, 1l. 6s.—Bulwer's Siamese Twins and other Poems, 8vo., 1831, (with autograph presentation by the author to the "Illustrious Wordsworth"), and another book, 10s.—Lord Byron's Works, 4 vols. 12mo., 1830. (Wordsworth's autograph in each volume), 3l. 9s.—George Chapman's translation of "the whole Works of the Prince of Poets in his Iliads, and Odyssey, according to the Greeke" (with the engraved frontispiece by Hollar, and portrait by Hole), 5l.—Chapman's "Homer," another copy, with 13 lines by S. T. Coleridge, dated February 12, 1808, a comparison of Chapman with Ben Jonson and Milton; a long MS. criticism of Chapman's merits as a translator, by the same writer, also inserted within the cover, 3l. 9s.—Collins's (William) Odes on several Descriptive and Allegoric Subjects, small 4to., 1747; the first edition, extremely rare, 16s.—Parnassus (England's), or the Choysest Flowers of our Modern Poets, with their Poetical Comparisons; hereunto are annexed various Discourses both pleasant and profitable, 12mo., printed at London, 1600; Wit's Recreations, containing 630 Epigrams, 160 Epitaphs, and variety of Fantasies and Fantastic, good for Melancholly Humours, 12mo., 1641, 2l. 12s.—Randolph's (Thomas, M.A.) Muses' Looking-Glass, &c., 12mo., Oxford, 1688; England's Helicon, or the Muses' Harmony, 1614, 4l. 14s.—Scott's (Sir W.) Marmion, 4to., 1808, with autograph, "Walter Scott to W. Wordsworth," 1l. 10s.—Scott's (Sir W.) Lord of the Isles, 4to., 1815, with autograph, "W. Wordsworth, from Walter Scott," 1l. 18s.—Wordsworth's Poems, in 2 vols. 1807, largely annotated, revised, and amended for subsequent editions; Poetical Works of William Wordsworth, vol. 5, 1837, a few pencilled memoranda inside the cover; The Loss of the Locks, a poem, the last two pages MS., in the autograph of the author, James Montgomery, Sheffield, December, 1799, 2l. 12s. 6d.—Wordsworth's Poetical Works, 6 vols., 12mo., Moxon, 1837, with pencil notes by the poet, 15l.—Wordsworth's Sonnets, collected in one volume, 12mo., 1838, also with notes, 3l. 5s.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.—THE GALLERY, with a Collection of Pictures by Ancient Masters and deceased British Artists, is OPEN DAILY, from Ten to Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER-COLOURS.—THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of this Society is NOW OPEN at their Gallery, 53, Pall Mall, near St. James's Palace, daily from Nine till Dark.—Admission, 1s.; Season Tickets, 5s.

FRENCH EXHIBITION, 120, Pall Mall.—THE SIXTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of PICTURES, the Contributions of Artists of the French and Flemish Schools, is NOW OPEN. Also in the same building, Madame Bodichon's Sketches in Africa, &c.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogues, 6d. each. From Ten till Six.

THE HEART OF THE ANDES, by Frederic E. Church (Painter of the Great Fall, Niagara), is being exhibited daily by Messrs. DAY & SON, Lithographers to the Queen, at the GERMAN GALLERY, 108, New Bond Street.—Admission, One Shilling.

## SCIENCE

*The Nature-Printed British Seaweeds: a History, accompanied by Figures and Dissections of the Algae of the British Isles.* By W. G. Johnstone and Alexander Croall. Nature-Printed by Henry Bradbury. Vol. I. *Rhodosperrmeæ*. Fam. I.—IX. (Bradbury & Evans.)

In our boyhood a seaweed was a weed and nothing more. Thus, it was like Wordsworth's primrose to Peter Bell,—

A primrose by a river's brim  
A yellow primrose was to him,  
And it was nothing more.

—Many a long summer's day have we wandered on the margin of the "homeless sea," glancing occasionally into the little mimic oceans held in the hollows of worn rocks, and cut off at low-water from the vast retreating waves of the wide sea. With delight have we seen these mimic oceans fringed and carpeted with varied seaweeds—disturbed only, and waving like land plants, when some stealthy billow of the ebbing tide crept back to its recent haunts, and overflowed its retreating fellows, and ruffled the rock basins, which, however, would soon become calm again and undisturbed. How interesting was it to watch the white and red sea-plants gradually still every fringe and branch until, finally, they were as moveless as the trees and shrubs in our gardens at these very melting moments in which we are now writing. No disturbance of this calm was there, except when some hundred-fingered anemone put forth its circlet of feelers from the very midst of the intertangled seaweeds; or when we ourselves, charmed with the floating fringes and the delicately-spread fronds, plunged in our profane fingers to grasp and extricate them—only to find that when out of the pools the fronds became tangles, and the strong stems flaccid stalks.

If any stray shore wanderer or shrimp dredger caught us at this dreamy kind of occupation, he would eye us askance, evidently doubtful of our sanity or safety. Or, perhaps, some battered little cart would wind down a cliff path, and rattle over a pebbly beach, and then run smoothly over a mile of sand, and, finally, yield up its rough driver, who, with prong and sharp spade, would dig up large flags of "sea-crackers" or "bottle-weeds," and fling them into his cart, together with dozens of delicate Rhodosperrmeæ, heedless of beauty, or colour, or form, and only mindful that "master wanted a load or two of weeds for the land," and that "weeds were good for manure." Or, it may be, again, that some dredger for shrimps had brought up a whole herbarium of tangled plants, but only a few shrimps, and was casting out the weeds with curses, while bagging the marketable crustaceans with eagerness. Such was all that was observed of seaweeds not a few years ago; and a huge collection of them might have been found undisturbed at many a pile, or groin, or jetty, stretching out below high-water mark into the sandy shallows—whether at Brighton, or Seaford, or Hastings, or Dover.

But times have changed. The march of Science has been felt even on the sea-shore,—her foot-prints are upon the moist sands,—seaweeds are no longer weeds, but "algæ"—gatherers of them are no longer idiots or idlers, but "phycologists,"—phycologists are no longer boys, but fathers of boys, doctors of medicine, spinsters, naturalists, and nature-printers. No spot upon earth, not even that which is but earth for six hours out of the twelve, is free from scientific invasion. A French invasion is but a dream, a dream of old men, but a scientific



invasion of our shores is a *fait accompli*, as the volume before us proves. The fruits of conquest are beneath our gaze. Names, not French, it is true, but Latin (and very bad Latin), have been given to the familiars of our boyhood. We should not know them again but for the plates. Our favourite red-tangle is here as *Polysiphonia urceolata*; another old acquaintance comes up again as *Bonnemaisonia asparagoides*. Positively we know not the names of the beloved weeds of our boyhood. 'Tis not that they have got into coats and crinolines, but into Latin. We are fairly perplexed and stammer when we meet them again; for little "brown stalk," whom we so often played with and nicknamed, was this morning introduced to us as *Gracilaria compressa*; and we are now requested to address old "pickled cabbage" as *Nitophyllum Hillii* and *Nitophyllum laceratum*. What mongrel names are these? Here, in this very *Nitophyllum*, we have a cross of Latin with Greek to express "shining leaf." If, however, any devoted phycologist would desire thoroughly Greco-Latino-English descriptions of algae, here they are *ad libitum*. There is no mincing of science here. *Polysiphonia formosa*, for example, is "much-branched subdichotomously; branches long, somewhat flexuose, ultimate ramuli subulate"; and again, "branches alternate, or subdichotomous; internodes long, somewhat flexuose, erecto-patent," &c. (p. 23). Readers may have 188 pages of this kind of elucidation in this first volume. Algae may be thought particularly simple in their structure; not so are they in these descriptions. As we have already said, we are estranged from our childhood's friends. We never heard, or wish to hear again, of *Sphaerococcus coronopifolius* (p. 149), though we see by the figure that it is an old acquaintance on our southern shores. Nor is the case improved when, in looking over its synonyms for a simpler name, we find *Rhynchococcus coronopifolius*. Our friends the geologists and conchologists have been accused of multiplying hard names, but they are at least rivalled by these phycologists. If the whole four volumes are to be thus adorned with nomenclature we shall require new organs of pronunciation, and new powers of memory, and a new lease of life to learn, repeat, and remember the favourites of the phycologists.

The only relief we experience in poring over these densely technical pages is not a sea breeze, but an occasional name of a fair spinster who has contributed some weed to the author. We cannot restrain our imagination from picturing "Miss C. Alardyce," who has found *Bonnemaisonia asparagoides*, at Moray Frith (p. 77), and "Miss Hutchins at Bantry Bay, Miss Ball at Cork, and the Misses White, Turner, Cutler, Gower, and Edgar." O, for a weed-walk and a weed-talk this very day with Caroline Alardyce, or any and all of the spinster phycologists! How would we speed to meet them on far stretching beach, and under steep chalk cliffs, hard by the friendly old lighthouse! What a pleasure to be guided by bright eyes and tripping steps to a fine *Rhodomela lycopodioides*! But why not immortalize the spinsters, even though they should change their names, by affixing them to the weeds? What are sea-nymphs of Hesiod to sea-nymphs of Britain? Nobody heeds Hesiod's Melobesia; and how much more euphonious would be *Melobesia Alardycei*, or, sweeter still, *Alardycea Virginea*!

The plates, however, may make the letter-press pass current, for never were published more beautiful illustrations of algae. For this kind of work nature-printing is exactly adapted. Every delicate and inimitable ramification is most attractively and accurately represented.

The fifty-six plates in this volume can scarcely be surpassed, and have not, as far as we know, been equalled. Those who will not give an hour to the letter-press may find more than an hour's delight in the plates. For ourselves, we have found them pleasing, and still pleasing during several inspections. The volume is handsomely got up, and will make a very attractive drawing-room table book at home or at the sea-side. If the three succeeding volumes are as beautifully illustrated we shall be glad to welcome them.

## SOCIETIES.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—July 4.—Dr. Gray, President, in the chair.—W. D. Crotch, Esq. was elected a Member.—Mr. Jakes exhibited a specimen of an American species of *Curculio*, *Arrhenodes maxillosus*, which had recently been taken alive in a garden at Camden Town.—Mr. Bond exhibited some Lepidoptera from Freshwater, Isle of Wight, and a beautiful living example of *Calosoma sycophanta*, found on the coast at Freshwater a few days previously.—Mr. Shepherd exhibited some specimens of *Deileaster dichroa*, lately caught near London.—Mr. Janson exhibited three species of Coleoptera new to the British list, viz. *Stenus opticus* from Holme Fen, *Conosoma pedicularum* from Horning Fen, and *Scolytus Pruni*, found near London.—Mr. Sheppard exhibited two specimens of *Erastria venustula*, from Loughton, Essex.—Mr. Holdsworth exhibited the nest formed by the female of *Hydrius piceus*, from the aquarium of the Zoological Society in the Regent's Park.—Mr. Gorham exhibited *Anchormenus lievens* from Eltham.—Mr. Mitford exhibited a fine series of *Pyge fusca*, which he had lately bred from the larvae, and a specimen of *Carabus intricatus*, taken near Bath.—Mr. Stevens exhibited some beautiful Lepidoptera, sent from Moreton Bay by Mr. Diggle; and both sexes of the splendid Ornithoptera, from Batchian, Moluccas, the capture of which by Mr. Wallace had been announced at a previous meeting, the specimens having just arrived in England.—Mr. Westwood exhibited and read a description of a fine species of Phasmidae, from the River Amazon; and a beautiful Papilio, found in New Caledonia by Mr. McGillivray.—Mr. Waterhouse read papers on the British species of Donacidae and Cissidae.—Mr. F. Smith read a paper 'On the Economy of the Ichneumonids constituting the genus *Pezomachus*.'

## MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Mon. Entomological, 8.  
Thurs. Zoological, 4.—General.

## FINE ARTS

## THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

## Its Treatment of Engravers.

A Correspondent writes:—"I will not rouse my bile by dilating on the century of insults our English engravers have received from the R.A.s.—I will not this burning weather let my gall overflow in inveighing against even the ignominious treatment of the works of our most laborious and most skilful engravers, so recently as even the Exhibition of May last, for two reasons: first, because it seems to be a by-law, or secret understanding, of the body I write of, to treat engraving as a mere inferior and mechanical branch of Art; secondly, because I am sure the engravers themselves will laugh at such unworthy slights, as long as the great free world of the shop-windows is open to them.

"I will, however, make my case clearer by confining myself to a single illustration, to show how old this jealousy is, and how baneful for Art have been its systematic workings. I take my facts chiefly from a curious pamphlet, yellow with age, lent me by a learned and ingenious friend, whose interest has been roused by the attack on an effete body. The tract is entitled 'An Inquiry into the Rise and Establishment of the Royal Academy of Arts; to which is prefixed a Letter to the Earl of Bute,' by Robert Strange, 1775. The little book, I need scarcely say, is by the celebrated Jacobite engraver, the

contemporary of the great Woollett,—and is a logical, but crushing, description of the intrigues and plottings that heralded the birth of the Academy. He shows how Reynolds, who had sworn to be neutral, was beguiled by the offer of the Presidency,—and how George the Third, with his usual obstinate childishness, promised both Societies, and deceived both. But it is as regards engraving that he shows the strongest case.

"I will not insult the understanding even of a Royal Academician by dilating on the advantages of engraving to Art. We all know what Bolswert did for Rubens' forms, and what Marc Antonio for Raphael's. We all know that hundreds of great pictures have perished, leaving their engravings alone to preserve a recollection of them. We know that tens can buy engravings where units can only buy pictures. We know that engraving has done for Art what printing did for letters. Sir Robert (all who know his portrait, will at once feel he is a trustworthy witness,—even if his book from internal evidence did not show its own truth) must at once be confessed a high-spirited, generous gentleman, who had staked his life for a bad cause, but would never have forfeited his honour to be the mere conqueror in a petty quarrel.

"Let us hear Sir Robert, and see how true the dictum is, that 'when men are guided by false and underhand motives they meet with eternal embarrassments, and are ever reduced to act with inconsistency.' He says, in modelling the very first plan of the Academy the intriguers, jealous of the birth, as the Academicians are now of water-colour artists, proposed, contrary to the opinion of Mr. West, to totally exclude all engravers. In vain it was urged that engraving was a profitable branch of Art to a commercial country; that engraving was the twin sister of painting, and gave the artist immortality. But no sooner had a body, which pretended that it was organized to promote the Fine Arts, passed this law, than it began to show its miserable favouritism, and admitted Bartolozzi into its ranks. To render this injustice apparently just, they declared that they admitted the clever Italian as a painter, and not as an engraver, and required of him a diploma picture, which, bad as it was, was, it is said, produced chiefly by his friend and collaborator, Cipriani. To cover this meanness, the Academicians declared, to stop the outcry of the degraded and excluded engravers, that they had but followed the example of the royal academies of Paris and of Rome. Neither of these statements was true. Sir Robert Strange himself was a member of both Academies, and though Rome, since the days of that strong worker, Marc Antonio, had never properly cultivated engraving, Paris was well known to have produced many great engravers, such as Audran and Edelinck.

"Driven out of their front forts, the worthy defenders of English Art, according to the dictum of Rochefoucault, 'hating those they had injured,' brought forward their final convincing reasons. They said that engravers were servile copyers, and not fit to instruct in a royal academy; and, alas! it was Reynolds whom they chose to give these unworthy arguments a voice. They all agreed to throw odium on the sister art, and to treat those who professed it as unworthy the attention of the royal establishment. The fact was, that the third-rate face-painters, brown-tree painters, plagiarists, miniature painters, fan painters, coach painters, and snuff-box chasers, few of whom could draw a figure so well as many of our boy students now living, were jealous of the engraver who could draw, and took a wide view of Art.

"Compelled, however, to yield on this point, our R.A.s yielded with the bad grace of men who are defeated. The remedy was worse than the disease. They determined, too, to save appearances, and cunningly appear to give, yet give not,—they would prevent all complaint, yet grant nothing,—they would give an imaginary honour and rank, which should really be a brand and an insult, never to be tamely borne by generous or high-spirited men. Crafty care was taken that the mode of admission should be as a yoke, under which no proud man would ever deign to stoop. The engravers were not to be made Academicians, as in

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as, as in Paris, but were called Associates, and were excluded from all honour and advantage.

"They were to be the acknowledged and hoped-for inferiors of the Academicians—the valets—the servants—the Gibeonites—the Levites, who never would be promoted. They were not to be admitted into any office, or to have any vote in any assembly; in fact, they were to be dumb and without action. To complete the disgrace, the Academicians, in their royal diplomas, were to be created Esquires, while those certificates of the Associates were couched in the humblest terms and were signed only by the President and Secretary.

"Now, the indignation broke out fiercer than ever. No engraver would join the body. At last, however, they found some victims. Two foreigners joined their faction, one of whom had been rejected by the Royal Academy at Paris; and, lastly, Mr. Major, the King's seal engraver; a man of talent, but with a numerous family; his fears being played upon.

"All this time, every one wondered how the King could be always got to sanction every fresh inconsistency of the Academy. But how could men expect consistency from a King who had promised equal extension of royal favour to both Societies, yet soon afterwards granted a charter to the younger of the two bodies,—who liked West's pictures merely because they were smooth,—who refused to take one of Wilson's noblest landscapes painted to order,—who never patronized Reynolds, and did not like his pictures,—who held out no generous hand to Barry?"

**FINE-ART GOSSIP.**—Sir Robert Smirke has resigned his place among the Forty Academicians. Sir Robert had for some years past retired from the active duties of his profession; and in giving up his seat in Trafalgar Square he has now set an example of self-respect and self-denial which will cover his old age with new distinction. This resignation ought to be followed by other resignations. We need not point out individuals, for they are notorious. Sir Robert deserves an oaken crown for this brave act, and if his professional brethren feel the same admiration for moral courage as for artistic skill, they will not suffer the act to pass into oblivion. Two seats among the forty are now vacant—one painter, one architect; and the strife has already commenced as to who shall be carried into the chairs of Leslie and Smirke. Will the painter of the 'Upas Tree' and the 'Evening Gun' be seated in the chair of Leslie? Will the hero of the Gothic revival succeed to Smirke? When these places are filled, two Associates must be chosen. Should not Faed come in? Will jealousy of the Pre-Raphaelites exclude Holman Hunt? We shall see.

A number of Royal Academicians have presented a gold pencil-case to Mr. Maclise as a sign of congratulation and admiration of the finished drawings of his great Cartoon in the New Palace, of which we gave an account some weeks ago. The composition is perhaps the most vigorous and brilliant work of this master of design, and the feeling which dictated this memorial gift is one to delight all who love Art and desire to respect its professors.

We have been shown some photographic studies by Mr. Claudet, taken by a new lens and of a large size. They are of extraordinary merit as to fidelity of likeness, truth of outline, beauty of detail, and force of representation. They are all male portraits; and they have some part of that nameless grace of attitude and expression for which Mr. Claudet's female portraits have always been renowned. As every woman who sits to this artist looks like a countess, so in these enlarged masculine portraits we find every point of character and trace of intellect seized and put on record.

Mr. MacLean, of the Haymarket, has brought out a political squib, with coarse H.B. illustrations, which comes a little late in the day, to ridicule the folly of France and its Republicans in allowing the once ridiculed and ludicrous adventurer to become their despot. This heavy trifle is entitled 'The Fisherman and the Genius,' and is a travesty of that very old friend the story in the Arabian Nights, where the beguiled fisherman lets out the

imprisoned spirit that Solomon had thrown into the river in a sealed vessel. It is a tedious bit of fun, and not worth more than an ephemeral page in *Punch*. The best scene is where the freed and ungrateful spirit assumes the form of Napoleon, his military cloak blowing like a tempest cloud, and his cheating hand on his sword.

The sale of the late Lord Northwick's collection of pictures commenced on Tuesday morning in the noble galleries of Thirlestane House, Cheltenham. On the first day the following lots, among others, were sold:—Salvator Rosa, a Rocky Scene, with two figures, from the collection of Sir T. Lawrence, 160 guineas (Colnaghi).—A Cuypp, a Landscape, with figures, from the Boursault collection, 90 guineas (Eckford).—Hobbima, a Landscape, with a stream in the foreground and two figures fishing, 70 guineas (Meffore).—Ruyssdael, a Forest Scene, waterfall in the foreground, two men angling, the engraved picture, 80 guineas (Whiting).—N. Berghem, a Mountain Landscape, with view of a city and the Lake of Perugia; signed and dated 1653, 390 guineas (Rhodes).—Daniel Mytens, sen., Charles the First when a child, 95 guineas (Mostyn).—Hans Holbein, Portrait of the Princess Mary of England, 95 guineas (Colnaghi).—Claude, an Italian Landscape, 300 guineas (Rhodes).—Raffaello, the Virgin, Child and St. John, in a landscape, small circular, in a satinwood case, enriched with twelve medallions by Wedgwood, 150 guineas (Rhodes).—Van Haagen, View of the entrance of a Wood, 66 guineas (for the National Gallery). The amount of the first day's sale was 3,750*l*. On Wednesday the sale continued, and the following lots merit notice:—Lingelbach, the Departure for the Chase, with numerous horses and figures, 105 guineas (Col. Walker).—W. Vander Velde, Admiral Van Tromp, in the background a sea-fight, 100 guineas (Farrar).—Paul Vansomer, the Earl of Arundel, a full-length portrait, with the Countess of Arundel, the companion picture, 200 guineas (Colnaghi).—Mark Gerrard, portraits of the Earl of Dorset and his Secretary, 90 guineas (Farrar).—Quintin Matsys, the Artist painting his Mother's Portrait, 50 guineas (Colnaghi).—Mazzolino di Ferrara, Christ in the Judgment Hall, 320 guineas (Nieuwenhuys).—Hobbima, a Landscape, 100 guineas (Abrahams).—Locatelli, an Italian Landscape, with figures, 180 guineas (Abrahams).—Paul Reinagle, The Sermon, from 'Tristram Shandy,' 69 guineas, (Farrar).—Le Nain, Interior of a Peasant's Cottage, with figures, 91 guineas (Eckford).—Jan Baptist Weenix, a View in the Garden of a Château, 350 guineas (Mawson).—Hogarth, the Modern Midnight Conversation, 46 guineas (Haig).—Sir Anthony More, Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, 86 guineas (Graves).—Antonio Canaletto, the Grand Canal at Venice, 400 guineas (Pearce).—Van Eyck, The Adoration of the Magi, 495 guineas (J. W. Brett). The amount of the second day's sale was 4,400*l*.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—*M. Meyerbeer's Breton Opera.*—

Dieu nous donne à chacun en partage  
Une humeur différente ici-bas,

write MM. Barbier and Carré, in musical introduction of *Corentin* the cowardly, whose pipe plays such a prominent part in 'Le Pardon de Ploërmel.'—*M. Meyerbeer*, transcended by none as a master of stage effect, has ways (dare we say whims?) of his own,—without paragon or prototype in the history of Opera.—He moulds and twists and amplifies his works while they are in progress—not of creation, but of preparation, as few *maestri* have done;—as few could do. A famed man of science was described as "One who begins to write his treatise when he receives his first proof from the printer." But the work, when completed, may not be, perhaps, the less a work of Genius because that sure touch which is first and last, the same one, is not in the resources of its maker.—Historically, it may be said, without indiscretion, that few, if any, of *M. Meyerbeer's* grander operas have passed through more phases than 'Le Pardon.' Act, we

believe, has been added to act, character to character, scene to scene; here, chorus behind the curtain; there, chorus before it—till the Breton tale has assumed a form and proportion in no respect contemplated when it was taken in hand. The inevitable consequence of this has been a repetition of the same sentiments, if not situations, calculated to drive any composer less adroit than *M. Meyerbeer* into monotony. There is a little too much of *Dimorah's* madness—and of *Corentin's* cowardice: *Hoel* has twice, virtually, to go over the same ground in the same parts of the first and second acts. The recognition scene in the third is too long-drawn; and yet, to fill that act, it was necessary to introduce the episodic quartet of rustics. That, in short, which to a certain degree presses upon 'Dimorah' an occasional suspension of interest is easily to be explained;—nay, when the origin of the *libretto* is studied, the wonder will prove that the process of elongation and addition has left so few traces.

The characteristic alluded to, again, "comes out" with greater force at Covent Garden Theatre than at the *Opéra Comique*, for which the "Pardon" was written.—Recitative, especially so richly accompanied and so rhythmically stringent as *M. Meyerbeer's*, cannot replace spoken dialogue without something of fatigue and disproportion being felt. Some of *Dimorah's* snatches of mad song,—as, for instance, the legend in the second act, pass over with too little notice as they stand;—whereas, in their original form, they give a wild brightness and contrast to the scene.—In another point the Italianizing of the opera has been attended by loss of effect. Charming as is the Shadow song in the second act,—some of the edge is taken off its brilliancy in London, by its immediately following an air interpolated to give added consequence to the part of *seconda donna*.—These comparisons mark the success of Tuesday evening's performance as greater in value even than at the first moment appears.

Some account was given of the story and music a few weeks since [*Athen.* No. 1642] which renders great minuteness on the present occasion superfluous. That the music grows on the listeners is synonymous to saying that it is by *M. Meyerbeer*. More seizing some of the melodies—as those in the duet betwixt *Dimorah* and *Corentin*, of the *trio* closing the first act, of the *bravura* in the second, and of the pilgrimage hymn,—could not be:—but it is only on familiarity that the ear appreciates and retains the exquisite devices of instrumentation showered over the entire work, with a felicity as prodigal as it is curious. Hardly on first hearing, too, is justice to be done to the great dramatic trio concluding the second act; in which the interlacement of three entirely distinct and conflicting humours is admirable;—and where the *stretto* is full of a savage and strange passion, which makes the vocal phrase dominate over the storm of the accompaniment.

This opera was executed in the highest Covent Garden style.—The extremely long and difficult overture (the opening of which is particularly to our taste from its quaint originality) went so well, and so picturesque was found the effect of the unseen chaunt of Pilgrimage behind the curtain, that it must needs be repeated.—Nothing better could be desired than the heroine of the evening. That *Madame Miolan-Carvalho* is one of the most remarkable artists before the public our readers have not to learn. With the exception of *Madame Persiani*, we have never heard so brilliant a singer so alive to the expressive niceties of accent.—She has that charm and feeling, too, which study can work out, but which Nature gives. These it was which made us look out and listen for her, from the moment when a few bars sung in 'Le Pré aux Clercs' characterized her as distinctly as the dropped feather which she says, "I belonged to a bird." About such things first and last impressions are one. There is no mistaking real intelligence; none, true expression. With a voice of very small body,—one which, like all acute *soprani* voices, has a tendency to rise in pitch,—it is excellent to hear how this admirable singer contrives to penetrate, to satisfy,—to interpret every bar she undertakes; still giving, as every singer (not slave) should



do, some colour of her own to what she sings. The size of the stage, the strangeness of the language, the responsibility of a new part, were all against Madame Miolan-Carvalho on Tuesday,—and with them the well-known propensity of certain Italian opera-goers to make light of French singing as “clever” (one of the most damaging epithets of faint praise).—For a moment or two the new comer was nervous, but the nervousness passed,—and in a few moments more the lady had got her audience fast by her brilliancy or pathos, the charm of skill and of heart making want of volume of voice forgotten; and herself improving in composure and success till the last bar of her arduous task. Madame Miolan-Carvalho’s powers as an actress prove greater than we had expected. Every one knows the old receipts by which love-crazed heroines on the stage recover their senses, when the proper moment for felicity sets in.—There is novelty in the intensity and truth of Madame Miolan’s treatment of emotions so difficult, because so hackneyed,—impressiveness without grimace, impulsiveness without rant.—She must watch her voice,—she must avoid, like the temptations of the Evil One, all excitements to attempt passions beyond her physical strength; but such watching and selection granted, she has a place in the opera-houses of Europe among the first rank of first-class singers, with which no light *soprano*, even let her mount up to the altitudes of *La Bastardella*, can interfere. In short, as another great artist in these scanty days of ours, no welcome can be too warm for her. Her success was complete.

Every good word, and good thought too, are due to Signor Gardoni—whose *Corentino*, the cowardly piper, written to be sung by M. Saint-Foy, who has not a note to sing with, we may frankly say, surprised us. It was lively, easy, perfectly self-forgetting—perfectly on the stage, that is—and this under circumstances through which “the lover,” or “the walking gentleman” (as the stage goes), would, in nine cases out of ten, sink or walk stupidly. The man or woman who can lay by grace, or good looks, or dignity, to personate a character demanding none of the three,—and will not “stand by his order,” or talk of “his line,” is the artist. Such a man was Lablache.—The others are merely good particular notes, or shapely legs, or attractive profiles, as may be.—Tried by this strict standard, Signor Gardoni has risen by his excellent and self-respectful appearance in M. Meyerbeer’s newest opera.

Not so Signor Graziani, who sang throughout like a disguised Prince,—and who behaved like an *Il balen* that could not come to the foot-lights and set forth its lovely *r. So far as Hoel* in ‘Le Pardon’ is concerned, the Italian manager of the opera has still to seek him. To be just, Signor Graziani has learnt his notes, but—the *romance* in the third act excepted—resigned himself to his part with that sort of solemn dolefulness which was so curiously evidenced in the Italian presentation of M. Meyerbeer’s ‘L’Etoile’ by the *vicandiers*, who drummed like eclipsed *sultanas*.—No one will ever again have the rashness of wishing to see Signor Graziani in a new French opera, however glad they may be to hear ‘Il balen’ sung by him. In the secondary parts, Mdlle. Marai was careful and audible,—Madame Nantier-Didiée (as ever) within limits effective. The men of the secondary quartett, Signor Neri-Baraldi and M. Tagliafico, must not be passed over. Of chorus and orchestra, and conductor (what would be the first two without the third to organize and to animate them?), every good thing is to be said.—Any one so anxious as M. Meyerbeer is known to be to neglect no chance of a perfect representation of any creation of his, must have felt gladdened and gratified,—not alone by the ovations which honestly fell to his share on the occasion, but by the good will and good labour exhibited by all occupied in bringing forward his newest production.—The performance (as a first performance) must be recorded as a remarkable one.

**MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.**—It appears from the vote on the Civil Service estimates, that “on the vote of 886,920*l.* the further amount for the Science and Art Department was

93,394*l.*, making a gross sum of 930,000*l.* It is instructive and interesting to watch the increase of this vote for England. The first expenditure for education under the Minutes of the Privy Council, in 1840, was 10,642*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, and it had gradually advanced year by year until, in 1849, it was 109,948*l.* In 1852 it amounted to 188,000*l.* In 1853 it rose to 250,000*l.* In 1854 it rose to 326,000*l.* In 1855 it rose to 369,000*l.* In 1856 it rose to 423,000*l.* In 1857 it rose to 559,000*l.* In 1858 it rose to 668,000*l.* It seemed that a steady progress had been established up to the estimate of last year, at something like the rate of 100,000*l.* increase per annum. This vote, be it remembered, followed the annual discussion of the affairs of the National Gallery, including the statement of 90,000*l.* spent during the last twelve years “on the national collection of pictures.”—Once again, it may be urged, seeing that so large and liberal is the movement,—that the utter exclusion of Music from a participation in Government encouragement to Art, is beginning to amount to something like an injustice unworthy of the epoch in which we are living.—In regard to this subject, we are requested to make room for the following note:—“A slip of the pen, if left without correction, may lead to a result not to be distinguished from a mis-statement of fact. A helpful notice of the attempt made at the meeting of the Society of Arts on the 13th of May, to put forward the claims of Music on public recognition has appeared in the *New Quarterly Review*, and been cited by one of the leading morning journals. By this it would seem as if the subject were beginning to excite attention. It becomes therefore of some consequence that premises shall be settled. Now, in the article referred to, and in the extract cited from it, the writer of the paper read at the Society of Arts is made to ‘call for court-patronage’ for Music, as one of the forms of the ‘recognition,’ sought for. What was said ran as follows:—

“In their case (‘the musicians’) public intervention might usefully replace that old direct patronage provided, and which to this day abroad, provides decoration, pension and maintenance, for those concerned in the representative arts.”—*Journal of the Society of Arts.*

And again:—

“Why should not such court patronage, as in the last century called from Handel the famous ‘Dettingen Te Deum’ on the occasion of a victory, be replaced by a National Commission for Music to put forth its powers when a great victory is won, or when the nation buries its great hero, or when a great peace is concluded?”—*Ibid.*

It is perhaps not superfluous in the writer of the paper to point out, that no disrespect of any sympathy and encouragement from Royalty is expressed in, or to be understood from the above passages; but that the attempt made was simply to base the recognition of Music as an art on such public justice and encouragement, as dispose of annual sums for schools of design, for the purchase of pictures, and for new works of Art, commissioned to decorate our Houses of Parliament.

“HENRY F. CHORLEY.”

If there were any stronghold left in London for our Time-honoured music to ‘Macbeth,’—no matter whether written by Lock or by Eccles—if there were any home for *Heate’s* heavy *solos*; or for the choruses “We fly by night,” “We should rejoice,” “Let’s have a dance upon the heath,”—in brief, for that entire dull music in the key of *r.* which old-fashioned English people have been wont to produce to visitors after *Cornelia’s* fashion when she was accused of having “no jewels,”—if, we repeat, there were any *Palladium* remaining for something which passed as Shakspearian musical illustration among old play-goers, being all the while Shakspearian musical interpolation,—we might have fancied that such *Palladium*, such stronghold, would be found at Canterbury Hall—no offence to the enterprise of its proprietors, but in respect to the humour of its audience. Yet, the other evening, such an advertisement was to be seen as the following:—“Verdi’s opera of ‘Macbeth.’—The whole of the first act of this opera, now produced for the first time in this country (the remaining three acts being in course of rehearsal), is sung nightly at the Canterbury Hall Concerts.”—A more curious performance could be hardly attended than that of this act:—no disparagement, let it be understood,

being conveyed by the epithet. It is true that the orchestra was replaced by a pianoforte (handled by an accompanist far superior to the generality of those gentlemen who cannot play the lean repository of fashionable opera songs selected for private concerts), a harmonium, and an instrument or two besides;—but many an opera in English was worse executed in our two great theatres twenty years ago than this act: if only for one simple reason, that the performers were firm and together in the music. More than one artist of repute could be named who, in the days referred to, considered his duty done by the new work, provided the one ballad was got ready for its *encore*—who professedly paid no attention to the concerted pieces—and who “had never looked at the dialogue.” The audience, too, at Canterbury Hall—a very large one—was worth studying, for the silent attention and interest taken in that which was presented.—More orderly and better entertained a public could not be.

In place of M. Jules Stockhausen, as *baritone* in the English version of ‘Le Pardon,’ about to be presented in due course at Covent Garden Theatre, we understand that Mr. Santley is engaged.

The French musical journals announce this week that Madame Cabel has made up her differences (if such there were) with the *Opéra Comique*, and that she will reappear there when her furlough is over;—that M. Scribe and Auber are busy on an opera for the same theatre, in which M. Montaubry is to be the hero,—the title of which is a strange one, ‘Faublas’;—that M. Offenbach is about to produce a three-act work there also during the winter;—and that the next opera for the *Théâtre Lyrique*, by M. Gounod, who shows the fertility of a real and thoroughly-prepared composer, is to be ‘Philemon and Baucis.’ We presume this to be the opera written at M. Bénazet’s instance for Baden-Baden.

Of the production of Signor Verdi’s ‘I Vespri Siciliani,’ at Drury Lane, we shall speak seven days hence.

#### MISCELLANEA

**Transformation of Words.**—Were not the derivation of “Hoyden,” as suggested by your Correspondent in the *Athenæum* of last Saturday, almost self-evident, it might be confirmed by the authority of the late Mr. Garnett, whose name is held in high honour by every philologist. In a paper read before the Philological Society, he gives, as an instance of Celtic words in our language, “Welsh, hoeden, a *flirt*—hoyden.” The change of signification is curiously illustrated by—“Welsh, herlodes, a *hoyden*—harlot, meretricious.” With respect to the word “lumber,” I will only point out that Andrew Yarranton, 1677, calls “a lumber house” that which Paterson designated a “Lombard,” or “Lombard House,” a public pawnbroking establishment, corresponding to the modern *Monte di Piété* of France, the *Monte di Piété* of Italy, &c. W.

**Greenwich Time and Local Time.**—A Correspondent, who considers that one uniform time throughout the kingdom would prove advantageous to travellers by railway, imagines that our Correspondent of last week, who argues in favour of two minute hands on one clock as being “philosophical and convenient,” has been located in the “far west” for the last half century; for had he travelled eastward or northward he would have experienced the convenience of the general adoption of Greenwich time. “The wise men came from the East,” not from the West; although there are some sensible men in the West,—the Camelford churchwards to wit. What centralization and independence have to do with the adoption of uniform time is even more *dizzy* and puzzling than two minute hands are on one dial. Uniform time has been adopted for the sake of convenience in railway transit. In astronomical observations by philosophers, it is not local but sidereal time which is used. We are informed that the authorities at Plymouth would gladly adopt one time only, and that Greenwich time, could the Government offices at this place be induced to set the example. T.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. P.—J. T. T.—P. G. H.—M. J. B.—F. R.—Alpha.—A. J.—B. P.—received.

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